

THE JERUSALEM POST

VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19607

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1997 • NISAN 18, 5757 • 18 THU AL-HIJJAH 1417

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Chemical attack at DC B'nai B'rith?

Page 2



Pierce Brosnan: License to thrill

Time Out



The great Turkish treasure hunt

The Magazine

Index	
Business	13
News in Focus	7
Opinion	4
Shabbat Shalom	11
Sports	18
World News	6

High Court annuls Schnitzer's Israel Prize

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

The High Court of Justice yesterday overturned the decision to grant the Israel Prize for Journalism to Ma'ariv columnist Shmuel Schnitzer. Justices Theodor Orr, Dalia Dorn, and Dorit Beinisch ordered Education Minister Zevulun Hammer to resubmit the issue to the prize committee.

The ruling answered a petition by MK Adisu Massala (Labor), who requested that Schnitzer, a longtime correspondent and editor, be disqualified from receiving Israel's highest award because of a racist article written in August 1994.

The article, headlined "Import of blood," referred to the immigration to Israel of members of the Falash Mura from Ethiopia who, Schnitzer wrote, were "contaminated with diseases," particularly as latent carriers of AIDS. In the article, Schnitzer also referred to the Ethiopian immigrants as "blacks." This earned him a censure from the ethics committee of the Journalists' Council.

Massala, who also heads the Unified Ethiopian Immigrants' Organization, said in his petition to the court that Schnitzer's article

Continued on Page 10



Azzam called into Egyptian court

Israeli Druse Azzam Azzam, on trial for espionage, is surrounded by Egyptian guards at the State Security Court in Cairo yesterday. Story, Page 2.

A-G: No ethnic bias in decision

By BAT SHEVA TSUR and RIM

A call by the nation's Sephardi chief rabbi to "put the ethnic genie back in the bottle" was met yesterday by a rare public statement from the attorney-general in defense of his decision to prosecute Shas MK Aryeh Deri for his role in the Bar-On Affair.

Meanwhile, amid increasing anger in Shas over the affair, Shas

Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron used the occasion to try to calm growing friction generated by Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's decision to prosecute Deri but not Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, and others in the affair.

At a Jerusalem rally on Wednesday, Deri was cheered by a stadium crowd of some 15,000 when he declared he was being persecuted for his Sephardi origins and religious devotion.

"Not only is it necessary to put the [ethnic] genie back in the bottle, but to destroy it once and for all," Bakshi-Doron told the crowd yesterday, "so we can all feel as one, as one with one heart, and all Jews can be responsible for one another."

Rubinstein, speaking shortly afterward on Israel Radio, said he felt he had to refute charges by Shas Party leaders that there had been an ethnic or religious bias to his decision to indict Deri.

Continued on Page 10

Releasing the ethnic genie, Page 3

mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef met last night with Labor leadership candidate Ehud Barak and is due to meet today with Labor Party Chairman Shimon Peres.

Over 20,000 worshippers had gathered at the Western Wall in the morning for the Pessah priestly blessing of the Kohanim. They were greeted by the two chief rabbis under a large canopy, and

63-year-old woman gives birth

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Imagine coping with a teenager at age 76. That's what the world's oldest known new mom faces. At age 63, the unidentified woman gave birth to her first child after lying about her age to get into an in-vitro fertilization program, doctors said. She delivered a healthy baby girl last year and breast-fed the child.

The woman said she was 50 when she approached the doctors for the treatment. She was actually 60.

It took her three years to get pregnant through a donated egg

and her husband's sperm.

Program director Richard Paulson and his colleagues at the University of Southern California's Program for Assisted Reproduction believe their patient is the oldest on record to have a successful pregnancy.

"Had the individual disclosed her actual age ... she would not have qualified for treatment at USC, since the program uses an arbitrary upper age limit of 55 for women seeking fertility therapy," the program said in a statement Wednesday.

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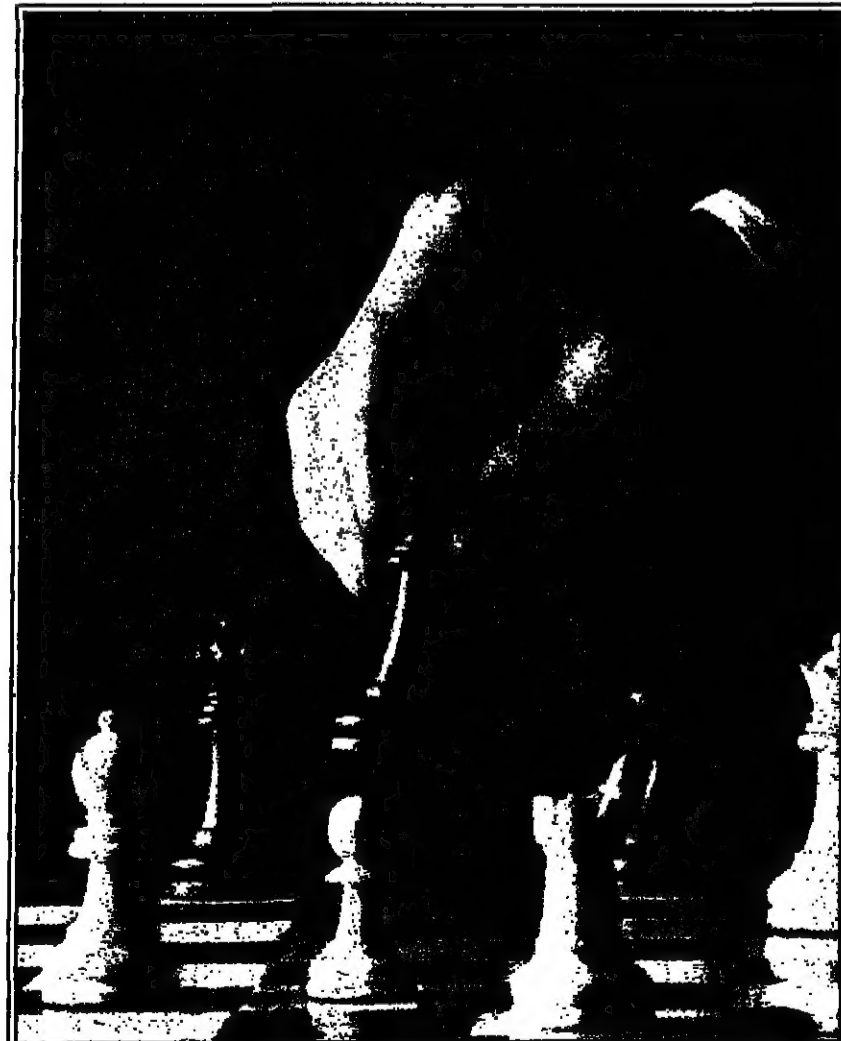
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NEWS

in brief

Journalists condemn attacks on media

The National Federation of Israeli Journalists warned yesterday that repeated incidents of violence against journalists in general and Channel 1 television correspondents in particular could lead to a disaster. The union was reacting to the attack on a television crew at the Shas gathering in Jerusalem on Wednesday. A similar incident occurred at a support rally for Shas leader Aryeh Deri at the beginning of the week.

Federation secretary-general Razi Guterman called on Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz to act forcefully against anyone who uses physical or verbal violence against the media.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Israelis allowed to enter Bethlehem

The IDF yesterday rescinded its order making Bethlehem a closed military area, reopening the town to Israelis. The IDF also renewed its joint patrols with the Palestinian Police in the town yesterday.

Jim

IAF examines possibility of MiG-29 upgrade

The Israel Air Force recently examined the possibility of upgrading MiG-29 warplanes, the type used in the air forces of Syria, Iran, and Iraq, military sources said yesterday. Channel 1 showed footage of a warplane it identified as a MiG-29 flying over the Negev desert about three weeks ago and Army Radio quoted unnamed defense officials as saying that Israel is performing experiments and doing system adjustments on the jet.

AP

First Golani chief celebrates 90th birthday

The Golani Brigade celebrated the 90th birthday of its first commander, Col. (res) Moshe Mann, by holding a surprise party for him yesterday. The event included a visit to the brigade's base in the north, where a live-fire exercise was held, and to the Golani Brigade memorial at the Golani junction. Mann served in the Hagana and helped establish the Golani Brigade in February 1948.

David Rudge

One killed, seven hurt on roads

The driver of a Jerusalem Municipality garbage truck was killed when it overturned yesterday on the road to Ma'alot Adumim. Police said the man was speeding and lost control on a curve, where the truck ran off the road and overturned into a ravine.

Jim

Palestinian teachers refuse to end strike

Organizers of a Palestinian teachers' strike went back to jail yesterday after they refused to call a halt to the three-week action. Schools in Hebron, Bethlehem and Ramallah stayed closed and hundreds of teachers protested outside government offices.

Palestinian officials said Wednesday night that the strike organizers agreed to end their action, but 19 strike organizers refused to sign a statement ending the strike and were returned to Palestinian jails yesterday.

AP

Bnei Akiva holds conference at Kfar Haroeh

Bnei Akiva's national conference, held once every four years, closes at Kfar Haroeh tomorrow night. Among those attending the opening on Wednesday night at Teddy Stadium in Jerusalem were Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau and Elihu Bakshi-Doron, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy.

Netanyahu, noting that Bnei Akiva is the biggest youth movement in Israel, called on its members to serve as a bridge between the religious and secular in Israel. Jerusalem Post Staff

Sabbath lamp sells for \$552,500

A silver Sabbath lamp from Fuerth, Germany made in 1780 sold at auction in Tel Aviv yesterday for \$552,500. That was much higher than the \$250,000 bid. Sotheby's auctioneers expected.

Sotheby's said it was a record for an item of Jewish ritual silver sold at auction. The buyer was an unnamed American collector.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Azzam espionage trial begins

CAIRO (AP) — An Israeli Druse and an Egyptian, shouting from inside an iron cage at a heavily guarded courtroom, pleaded innocent yesterday to charges of spying for Israel.

The two men — Azzam Azzam, 35, of Maghar in the Galilee, and Egyptian Emad Abdel-Hamid Ismail — entered not-guilty pleas and Ismail told the court that the case was fabricated by the Egyptian intelligence and claimed that he had been tortured in detention.

The court's 30-minute hearing was held amid very tight security in a court at Cairo's busy Bab el-Khalq area. Armed policemen in riot gear were deployed inside and outside the courtroom, packed with reporters and family members.

A state security prosecutor told the court's three-judge panel that Azzam, who worked in a textile company near Cairo at the time of his arrest in November, gave

Ismail women's underwear soaked in invisible ink to be used in writing secret messages to Israel.

"I swear by God almighty that I am innocent," Azzam shouted after hearing the charges.

"I know nothing about spying and I have never seen a secret ink in my life," Azzam, wearing a white prison uniform, said from inside the courtroom's iron and barred wire cage.

"The Great God knows that I am innocent and the intelligence knows that I am innocent," Ismail told the court.

Egyptian security men seated inside the defendants' cage signaled to him to be quiet when he began talking about his alleged torture.

After the hearing, the court adjourned until May 18.

Prosecutors have maintained that two female Israeli agents — Zahra Yousef Jreis

and Mona Ahmed Shawahna — recruited the Egyptian. They are being tried in absentia with Azzam and Ismail.

Their indictment states that the women slept with Ismail, who at one point worked at a factory in Israel, after meeting him at an Israeli nightclub.

Azzam and Ismail could face the death penalty if convicted of espionage, although it is usually only handed down if Egypt is at war with the country that recruited the spies.

The case has cast a shadow on Egypt's relations with Israel, already tense because of the stalemated Middle East peace talks.

Israel has maintained that Azzam is innocent and has demanded that he be freed, but Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said the case will be decided in court.

Azzam's lawyer, Farid el-Deeb, demanded that a sample of the material claimed to

be found in the underwear be provided for independent analysis.

El-Deeb, one of Egypt's leading defense lawyers, said he has accepted the case despite criticism by Egyptian colleagues.

"Egypt is a civilized country and any defendant regardless of his country is entitled to a proper defense," he said.

David Govrin, a diplomat at the Israeli Embassy in Cairo who attended the hearing, said: "I trust the Egyptian justice ... I hope that the current [political] atmosphere and other factors will not affect the trial."

Nearly 20 members of Azzam's family came from Israel to attend yesterday's court hearing, together with representatives of the Israeli government.

"I am sure he will be set free today because he is innocent and the whole case should have not started in the first place," Azzam's brother, Hamza, told reporters before the hearing.

Israel slams UN emergency debate

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — In a bitter debate yesterday at the UN, as the General Assembly convened an emergency session that nominally concerned Har Homa, Israel attacked the Palestinian Authority for "clear incitement to violence" and lambasted the UN session as "a relic of the Cold War era."

It was the first time since 1982 that the General Assembly met in an emergency session, and the fourth time the UN has debated the Jerusalem construction project since the beginning of March.

"Now that this emergency session has finally convened, the question is, was this session really necessary?" David Peleg, the Israeli charge d'affaires, asked the assembly.

Nasser Kidwa, the PLO observer to the UN, called for the cessation of building at Har Homa and asked the assembly to adopt "collective measures" against Israel, including blocking aid to those who are building "colonial" settlements. Kidwa also told the UN that it is the Palestinians' "right to shout and to use their bare hands to confront the Israeli gun and tank."

This was a "clear incitement to violence," Peleg said, adding that "the declared commitment of the Palestinians against terrorism is meaningless as long as the incitement to violence continues."

Acting on behalf of the 22-member Arab group, Qatar last month asked for the special session under

the terms of the 1950 "Uniting for Peace" resolution, which has been invoked nine other times since 1956.

The session was needed "to discuss the dangerous situation resulting from illegal Israeli actions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem," Qatar said, adding that the Israeli measures represent "a threat to international peace and security."

A special session requires 93 votes, a majority of the 185 members of the UN. Last week, it had appeared that enthusiasm for the session was losing steam. States seemed to be dallying in voting to hold the debate and observers said the topic had been exhausted.

Israel has challenged the UN's role in Israeli-Palestinian affairs and took special exception to the emergency session. "It is a relic of the Cold War era, and is particularly unsuited and discordant in the context of the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians," Peleg said.

An assembly vote on Har Homa, which could come as early today, would not be binding.

Yesterday's session was the fourth on Har Homa in less than two months.

After two debates in the Security Council, the US twice vetoed council resolutions that would have assailed Israel for the 6,500-unit building project. The Americans do not support the Har Homa project, but contend that the UN is not the appropriate arena to resolve disputes between Israel and the PA.

Har Homa to be named Pisgat Shmuel

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert announced last night that the new neighborhood being built on Har Homa on the southern outskirts of Jerusalem will be called Pisgat Shmuel. It is being named after former deputy mayor Shmuel Meir, who died in a traffic accident in December.

Speaking at a Pessah celebration in Jerusalem's Sacher Park, Olmert said "this is the answer" to the UN General Assembly debate on Har Homa.

Jim



Anticipating victory

Labor MK Adisu Massala (right) confers with his lawyer, Eyal Rosouky, in the lobby of the Supreme Court yesterday while waiting for the decision on his petition to annul the awarding of the Israel Prize to journalist Shmuel Schnitzer.

(Brian Henner)

Chemical attack suspected at Washington B'nai B'rith

By news agencies

WASHINGTON — At least 15 persons were reported hospitalized yesterday after complaining of ill effects from a mailed package holding suspicious "biological material" received at B'nai B'rith headquarters. Police, fire crews, federal agents, and military units rushed to the scene in response to a security alert.

"We found some biological material and a note that was left with the package," District of Columbia

Police Chief Larry Soulesby said in a televised interview. "An envelope was found in our mailroom with red liquid coming out of it" late yesterday morning, B'nai B'rith spokeswoman Robin Schwartz-Kruger told Reuters by telephone from inside the building. She said it was accompanied by a "threatening" letter but she did not know the nature of the threat.

Hazardous material experts in blue and white protective suits and gas-masks removed the package from where it had been transferred

just outside the building housing B'nai B'rith's international headquarters. An FBI spokeswoman said the package would be taken to the Bethesda Naval Research Center for testing.

Police and fire officials said they had not been able to confirm what was in the package or to establish that it was a health hazard. But Soulesby said, "We are very concerned that some of the officers who responded initially as well as others may have been contaminated."

Closure to be lifted after holiday

By ARYEH O'SULLIVAN and news agencies

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday that while there is a full tension in the territories, there are still warnings of efforts by Islamic militants to carry out attacks against Israelis.

However, he said Israel would lift the closure on the West Bank and Gaza by next week and allow thousands of Palestinians to return to jobs.

The closure was imposed on March 21 after the Hamas bombing of a Tel Aviv cafe which killed three Israeli women. Since then Israel has eased the closure and then tightened it again after citing warnings of planned terror attacks.

The latest clamp came just before Pessah began on Monday evening.

"I think after the holiday we are going to ease the closure to allow the workers to come and work in Israel," said Mordechai, who was speaking to reporters while touring Hebron.

Behaving as if running for office, Mordechai then traveled to Latrun to start the annual march and even strolled along with marchers until the first station. Some 3,000 people took part in the march.

Mordechai, one of the Likud Party's most popular politicians, then made his way to the park at Ein Hemed near Jerusalem to participate in the Persian Kurdish community's Saharane Pessah celebrations.

Winning numbers and cards

The winning numbers in last night's Lotto draw were 4, 5, 11, 16, 23 and 31. The additional number was 14.

In the weekly Payis Hazak draw, ticket 372924 won the NIS 1 million prize and ticket 610828 won a car. Winning NIS 5,000 were tickets 322549, 750746, 535338, 882017, 474105, 475824, 413132, and 133966. Tickets ending in 74367, 29156, 29977, 08159, 39916, 88628, 28744, 13024, 23921, 70887, 25792, 95270, 18769, 77565, 83403, 45276, 11616, 33845, and 32835 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 017, 394, 784, and 333 won NIS 100. Winning NIS 30 were tickets ending in 69, 66, 40, and 52. Tickets ending in 40 and 58 won NIS 20, while those ending in 1 and 9 won NIS 10.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis Daily Chance draw, the winning cards were the eight of spades, 10 of hearts, 10 of diamonds and king of clubs.

CORRECTION

The Voice of Music listings in Time Out are correct for Friday and Saturday, but not for the rest of the week. For listings for Sunday to Thursday, please see the daily papers next week.

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מכירת ארץ

Mubarak: Middle East peace is possible

Middle East peace can become a reality if all parties abandon old suspicions and animosities, President Hosni Mubarak said yesterday.

"Middle East peace is not an impossible target and can become a reality if the will of peace overcomes... mutual suspicions and expansionist demands," the Egyptian leader said.

"I call on the forces of peace in the world to support our efforts to save the Middle East peace process," he said in a televised speech marking the 15th anniversary of the completion of Israel's withdrawal from Sinai.

By DAVID RUDGE

A Lebanese woman and a Lebanese policeman were wounded during Hizbullah attacks on IDF and South Lebanese Army positions in the security zone yesterday.

The sniper and mortar fire attacks on the IDF and SLA posts occurred near Kfar Tibnit in the Ali Tahr hill range. The IDF and SLA soldiers, who suffered no casualties in the attacks, returned fire.

The woman and the policeman were appar-

ently wounded at the Tibnit crossing point on the northern perimeter of the security zone.

They were treated at the scene and later taken to Marjayoun hospital in the zone.

The incident followed a mortar attack on IDF troops near Talousa village in the eastern sector of the zone. There were no casualties in that attack either and IDF gunners returned fire.

Last night, mortars were fired at an SLA position in the central sector of the security zone and at the Huleh crossing point on the

northern perimeter of the zone. There were no casualties in the incidents, and IDF gunners returned fire.

Hizbullah, meanwhile, maintains that Israel is trying to expand the Grapes of Wrath understandings, designed to exclude civilians on both sides of the border from the fighting, to also include residents of the security zone.

A statement issued by the organization on its Nur radio station, broadcasting from Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, said Hizbullah had adhered to the understandings and had not

once targeted Israeli settlements in the past year.

"Looking back, we see that Israel is trying to expand the framework of the understandings to include the [SLA] collaborators among the protected civilians," said the statement.

"These Israeli attempts have failed however. The understandings cover civilians and not militiamen and in any case the issue of Lebanese civilians, be they inside or outside the security zone, is solely a Lebanese matter," said the statement.

ANALYSIS

Releasing the ethnic genie

By SARAH HONIG

The entire political arena these days is astir about a bottle and a genie. The talk is that the prosecutors' decisions on the Bar-On Affair have given that bottle a thorough shake and released the ethnic genie that had been confined inside for many blissful years.

Labor leadership hopeful Ehud Barak even instantly knew where to pin the blame. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Barak asserted yesterday, "shall henceforth be known as the splitter of the nation, as the man who incites one half of the people against the other half."

But significantly Barak had nothing but warm words of praise for embattled Shas leader Aryeh Deri, the man who declared before an audience of thousands that the prosecution is persecuting him for no fault of his own, other than because he is Sephardi and religious.

Ehud Barak's reaction is perhaps the touchstone. It indicates more than anything else that the ethnic genie in its latest incarnation is nothing but a political manipulation for transparent political ends. Barak has every interest in blasting Netanyahu, but he also has every interest in coddling Deri, because the pivotal party Shas must not be alienated. Who knows - maybe one day Barak too will need to form a coalition with Deri and make deals with him. After all the previous Labor government, as a lead from page headline from the defunct *Davar* screamed in 1993, had been cooking up a deal with Deri in return for his support on the Oslo process.

No one else is responsible for releasing the genie this time but Deri, the man no one dares criticize and to whom everyone is so nice, attentive and sympathetic. Likud and Labor spokesmen alike could find nothing wrong to say about him, though it is clear that he got everyone into trouble in this affair. Other people, like former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman also owe their legal travails to their one-time contact with Deri.

In their calmer moments Shas politicians too admit - though never for attribution - that the Bar-On

episode was Deri's own private war involving his own private court case and wasn't to do with Shas. Deri's own high-ranking Shas colleagues privately express quite a bit of pique about their leader and agree that it is not impossible for someone to attempt extortion without the object of his pressures getting the message and acting on it. Therefore, theoretically, it is not impossible for there to be a charge against the extortionist but not against the ones he sought to coerce.

Still, no one in Shas will dare say an anti-Deri word either. The claim that he is being hounded because of his extraction is a cause worth much political gold and no one in Shas has the courage to spoil a good political thing.

Thus Deri, rather than being the pitiful victim of Israeli politics, is indeed one of the most protected and immune members of it. While tons of mud are being slung at Netanyahu and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, even after the decision not to charge them, Deri is receiving messages of support from all over the political spectrum because he was, alas, charged.

The fact that Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein who decided to indict him is also religious is explained away within Shas because he is Ashkenazi and the wrong kind of religious. But that's an ethnic point too.

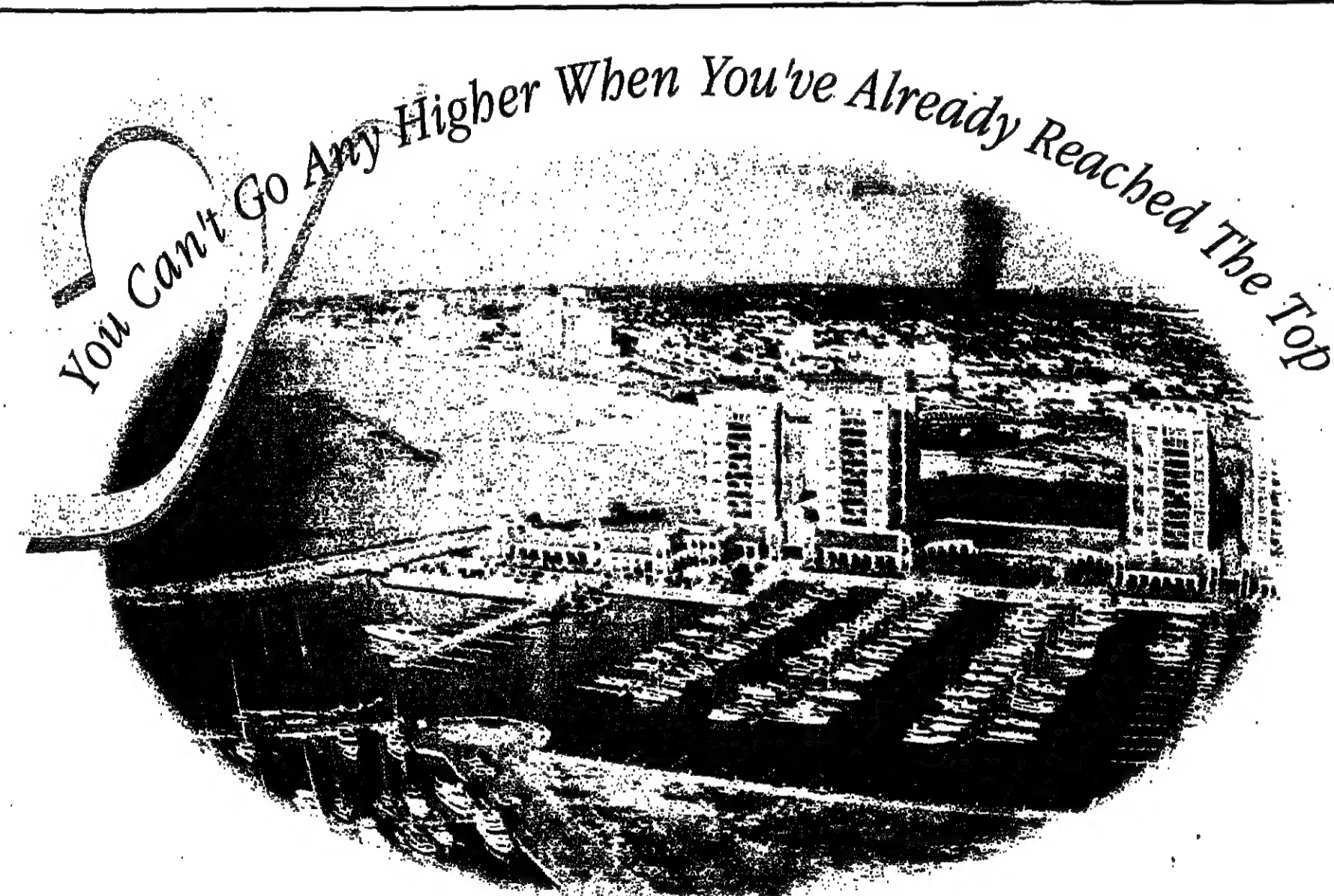
Hanegbi is no pure Ashkenazi, considering his Yemenite-Moroccan roots. Why was he let off the hook despite his ethnic identity? Furthermore, fully half of the government in which Hanegbi serves is non-Ashkenazi.

Neither were those non-Ashkenazi members allocated minor decorative portfolios. The prime minister is flanked by two Sephardim in the most powerful and prestigious cabinet roles - Moroccan-born Foreign Minister David Levy and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who is of Kurdish origins. Shas's own ministers hold portfolios which contain more clout than most other government ministries - Labor and Social Affairs, as well as the Interior.

Shas is also in control (under a

rotation agreement with the NRP) of the religious affairs portfolio with its particular importance. If the Sephardim in fact have any problem it is in the haredi court. Deri and other Shas luminaries were educated in the Orthodox Ashkenazi yeshivot of Bnei Brak and Jerusalem. They are not perpetuating a Sephardi tradition but trying to imbibe an Ashkenazi tradition and put it into a Sephardic context. They even dress as their Ashkenazi role models. But because the Ashkenazi haredim are traditionalists, and the Sephardim do not originate from the same tradition, there are problems of acceptance. This is perhaps why Shas was born in the first place.

To blame Zionism for this, as Deri has, is a gross misrepresentation. If in Zionist Israel, religious Sephardim were so discriminated against and so removed from the centers of power, Deri himself would hardly have been able to exert so much influence as he did on who would or would not be appointed attorney-general.

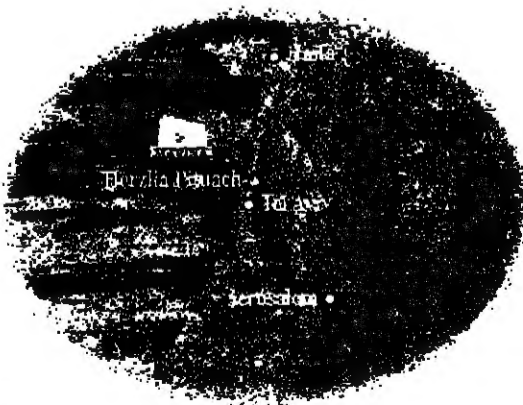


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Baby killed by falling branch

By DAVID RUDGE

A seven-month old baby girl was killed and her sister was lightly injured at Yeshivat Nehalim near Petah Tikva yesterday when a branch fell on them after apparently being blown from a tree by strong winds.

The toddler from Bnei Brak was killed when the branch fell on her head while she was sitting on the grass with her family close to the tree.

She was treated by Magen David Adom paramedics and taken by ambulance in critical condition to

the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva, where she died of her injuries a half hour later. Her four-year-old sister suffered light leg injuries and was also taken to Beilinson for treatment.

In a separate incident, four children were injured when the trampoline on which they were playing at an amusement park at Kibbutz Yagur was blown over by wind.

Police said the children were lightly hurt and were taken to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. The facilities at the amusement park were closed and the operator was detained for questioning.

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02-531-5637-40. Fax 02-538-8408. TEL. AVIV: 5 Rehov Hamasger, P.O. Box 28398 (61283) Telephone 03-6390333, Fax 6390277.
HAIFA 20 Nordan, Hadr Hacamel, Telephone 04-8623166. Published daily except Saturday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Palestine
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Hanegbi must resign

The appointment of a ministerial committee to oversee senior Civil Service appointments, as promised by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is a welcome one. It is unfortunate that the public cannot trust Netanyahu himself to appoint the best people to such positions, but now there are ministers in the loop who can be trusted. Netanyahu's spring "house cleaning" has begun, but his government will remain on shaky ground unless it goes further.

The two heads of the new committee on appointments, ministers Dan Meridor and Natan Sharansky, are also, not coincidentally, among Netanyahu's toughest critics in this affair. Sharansky, in particular, stated early on that if "10 percent" of the charges in the Bar-On Affair were accurate, then the government had no right to exist.

Sharansky's problem is that the report by State Attorney Edna Arbel and Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein found evidence backing most of the charges, but this evidence was not sufficient to warrant an indictment. Faced with 90 percent suspicions and zero percent proof (on a level that would stand up in court), Sharansky seems to have concluded that Netanyahu has passed his 10 percent test.

But Sharansky's and Meridor's satisfaction is only the first hurdle that Netanyahu had to cross to save his government, and even that hurdle is still shaking from the grazing it took. First, Arbel and Rubinstein have not yet rendered their judgment regarding the possible indictment of Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office. If Lieberman is indicted, it will mean that the circle of court-level evidence extends to the man sitting inside Netanyahu's inner sanctum.

Second, the High Court of Justice will have to rule on whether the Arbel-Rubinstein decision not to indict meets its standard of rationality. Third, the Knesset State Control Committee could ask the president of the Supreme Court to appoint a state commission of inquiry to issue its own report. Fourth, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat could, on her own initiative, appoint a commission of inquiry.

Barring a great public outcry regarding the Arbel-Rubinstein report, the Netanyahu government could well squeak by all of these hurdles. But it is also possible that the cloud over the government could darken, rather than dissipate. Much depends on how serious Netanyahu is about delivering on his promises of clean government and broadening the decision-making process.

The first test of this will be what happens with Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and right-hand man Lieberman. Hanegbi, in his first statement since the Arbel-Rubinstein report, is claiming complete vindication. He claims the report makes four points in his defense: 1) that he did not put forward Bar-On's name initially; 2) that

he supported the nomination based on personal experience with Bar-On, not because of outside threats; 3) that he had no connection with any corrupt attempts to influence the nomination; 4) that charges that he misled the cabinet concerning the position of Supreme Court President Aharon Barak on the nomination "are entirely baseless."

This statement, like Hanegbi's presentation of the Bar-On nomination itself, is riddled with half-truths and deception. His first two points are true, but certainly nothing to be proud of. As justice minister, Hanegbi had the primary responsibility of finding an appropriate nominee for the sensitive and critical post of attorney-general. Now he boasts that he did not put forward the name of the person chosen, but that he backed the choice wholeheartedly.

Even assuming that Hanegbi's motives for backing Bar-On were not criminal, why did he champion someone who was unfit for the job?

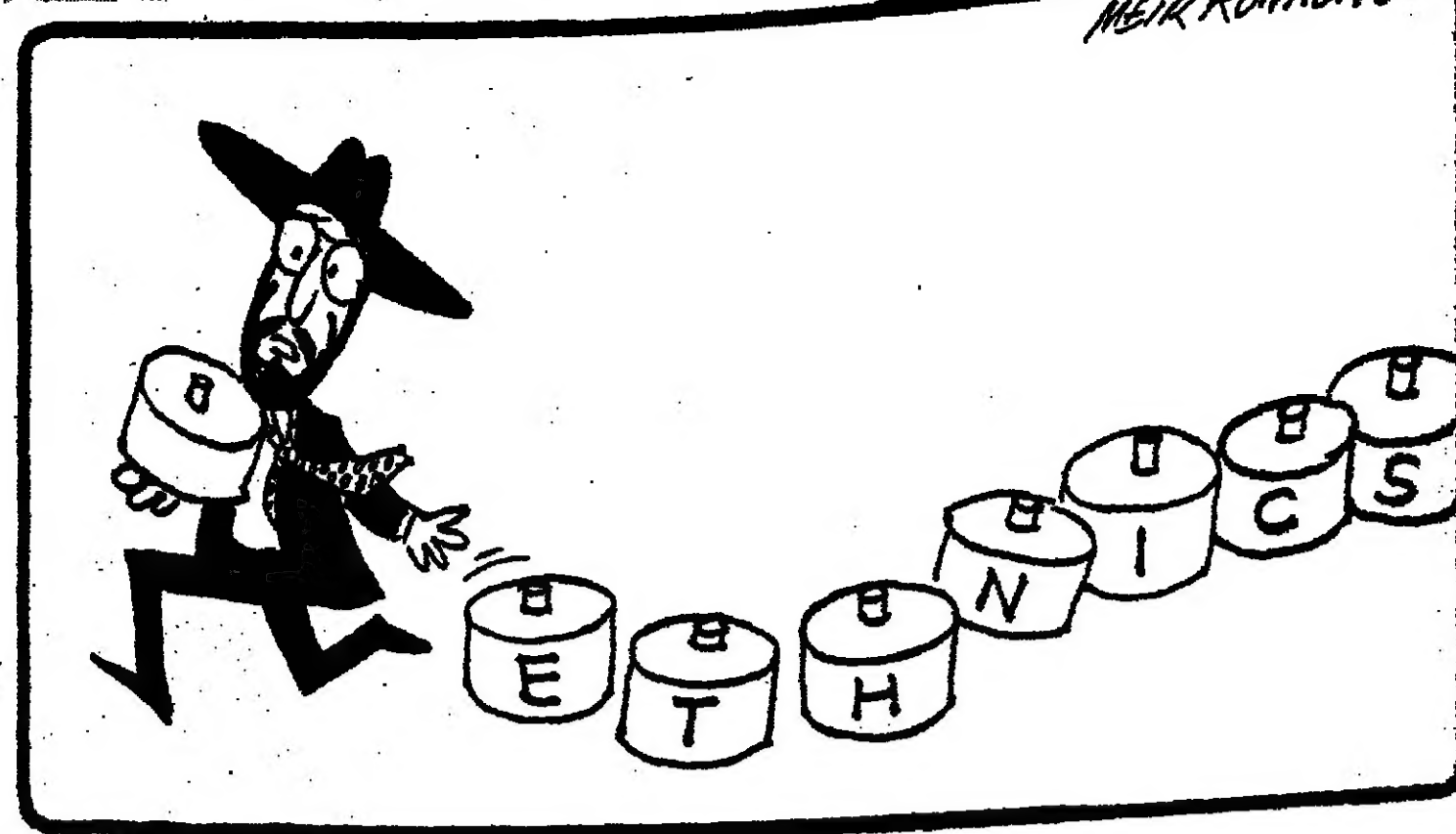
The report does absolve Hanegbi from participating in a conspiracy "by indicted parties" to influence the nomination, but clearly expresses concern that Hanegbi did nothing to investigate such suspicions when he became aware of them. The report states that there were those among the prosecutors who recommended indicting Hanegbi based on precisely this finding.

According to the pro-indictment prosecutors, "The information that was brought before [Hanegbi] and his impression of it, required him to carry out a fundamental and comprehensive inquiry before continuing his actions in support of the Bar-On nomination." The reference here is to a meeting among Netanyahu, Hanegbi, Lieberman, and lawyer Dan Avi-Yitzhak, at which the latter warned that MK Aryeh Deri was backing Bar-On for personal reasons related to his court case.

Arbel and Rubinstein decided not to indict on this particular matter—not for lack of evidence, but because they did not regard the failure to investigate the suspicion of criminal influence to be a criminal offense.

The report also directly contradicts Hanegbi's fourth claim to vindication. Hanegbi deceived the cabinet into thinking that Justice Barak did not oppose the nomination, when he had conveyed to Hanegbi his strong opposition. The report concluded that, "In our view, this is not a criminal violation, even if it does constitute a deviation from correct norms of behavior." So on two of the four matters that Hanegbi claims vindication, the report not only did not clear him, but confirmed serious charges against him.

Unlike the charges against Netanyahu, which were dismissed for lack of evidence, some of the charges against Hanegbi were found to be true, but "merely" violations of public norms, not criminal violations. Sharansky, Meridor, and MK Ze'ev Begin are right: Tzahi Hanegbi should not be minister of justice.



In the political gutter

YOSEF GOELL

It's been a long time since we've been subjected to such vitriolic tirades as those delivered by Aryeh Deri and other Shas leaders at that party's rally in Jerusalem on Wednesday.

For the past year Shas and other religious and hardi parties have escalated their attacks on the Supreme Court, the state attorney and the media. Deri and the other Shas spokesmen have now widened the ambit of their hatred to include all of Zionism and the vast majority of Israel's Jewish population who identify with it.

"Zionism," Deri declared at the Hebrew University sports stadium on Givat Ram, "is a movement of heresy aimed at creating a new Judaism. These Zionists are the Sadducees [i.e. Second Temple-period Hellenized Jews] of our generation," he thundered. "The Zionist movement is determined to annihilate the Torah, our religion and the culture of the Sephardi Jews."

Since the emergence of Shas on the political map in the mid-1980s observers have been debating whether the party was merely a disgruntled, Sephardi offshoot of the anti-Zionist Ashkenazi hardi world, or whether it was an authentic and fascinating attempt to bring a significant part of the Sephardi population into a synthesis between their easy-going traditional Jewish backgrounds and modern Zionist Israel.

Deri has now told us, in unmistakable terms, to which of these descriptions he subscribes. The stark, vituperative terms he used have the advantage for non-hardi Israelis, however, of clearly iden-

tifying an enemy who insisted on remaining veiled before.

Samuel Johnson's quip, "Patriotism is the last resort of a scoundrel," describes well the typical American political crook who, when in danger of being found out, wraps himself in the flag and in the values of country and family. So with Deri who, in desperation over the failure of his

party's achievements in building its El Hama'ayan educational system, was turned into a Deri pep rally to protest the fact that the attorney-general and state attorney recommended that only Deri be indicted in the Bar-On Affair while the other public figures were let off for lack of evidence. There is indeed something illogical and unbalanced in that deci-

By claiming that 'Zionism is heresy' Shas has taken resentment too far

attempt to dictate the appointment of an attorney-general who would guarantee him a plea bargain or a pardon on the occasion of next year's jubilee celebrations, is seeking to wrap himself in the scroll of the Torah and to entwine his own fate with the values of Jewish tradition and family.

THERE is a measure of tragedy in Deri's desperation which goes beyond the merely personal.

In the early years of his meteoric political career Deri was one of the most effective and public-spirited officials to emerge on the political scene. Somewhere on the way to the top he went wrong. The greater tragedy is that he is now determined to compound that wrong by dragging an entire party and the segment of the population it represents into the political gutter with him.

Wednesday's rally, the original purpose of which was to extol the

usually slick Deri was this time simply less adept at covering his tracks in that affair than were Prime Minister Netanyahu, Justice Minister Hanegbi and Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office Avigdor Lieberman.

But that is no reason to seek to besmirch an entire party and an even larger segment of the population by identifying it with the fate of a legitimately indicted politician who has gone wrong.

Shas does owe much of its organizational success to the talents of Aryeh Deri. But if party leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef truly has the interests and honor of the close to two million Israelis of Sephardi origin in his heart, he would be wise to take the heart-wrenching step of dissociating himself from his delinquent protégé. Such public dissociation from Deri is even more incumbent on the very large

number of Israelis of Sephardi origin who have made it in Israeli terms and who are in no way identifying with Shas and the Jewish primitivism it has chosen to espouse.

Even at the height of its political success Shas is very far from representing most Sephardim. It is largely a party of more poverty-stricken Israelis of Moroccan origin, who very correctly feel themselves to have been abandoned by the establishments.

Ethnic strife between the founding Ashkenazi elites and the later Sephardi immigrants reached its zenith in the 1980s. It has since subsided as more and more Sephardim have become successful, and as the pace of inter-ethnic marriage has continued to grow.

Dangerous relapses from that desirable trend occur when cynical politicians, like Deri, insist on playing the ethnic card out of personal interest.

Normally, one should demand that the prime minister of a Zionist country respond in unequivocal terms to Deri's tirade against Zionism. Such a demand from the badly wounded Netanyahu, however, would be inhumanly cruel. But such a demand must be made of all the leaders of the Zionist parties, beginning with the Likud and Labor.

In this regard it was especially jarring to hear Labor's reputed crown prince, Ehud Barak, referring on radio yesterday to Deri as "my friend Aryeh." It says little for Barak's integrity and leadership abilities.

The writer comments on current affairs.

Netanyahu & Deri: The odd couple

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

People often wonder, who is the real Binyamin Netanyahu? But nobody asks the question about Shas leader Aryeh Deri. This is a distinction neither Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein nor State Attorney Edna Arbel made. It has nothing to do with criminal law. Still, it may be a good deal more important than many of the distinctions they did make.

Much has been said and written about Netanyahu's faulty decision-making process. Surprisingly, the process worked rather well.

The prime minister was warned against the appointment of Roni Bar-On by his two personal legal advisers, Yitzhak Molcho and David Shimron. He even admitted to the police investigators about hearing what was in it for Deri, although there was a question whether he had "internalized" the information.

The real problem was not in the decision-making process, but in the person who was doing the deciding. Netanyahu clearly believed he was in the clear, as far as the law was concerned. Hence, his immediate demand, when the affair broke into the open, for a police investigation.

The rest, as far as he was concerned, was raw politics. Deri, in his cynicism about politics, has much in common with Netanyahu. Like Netanyahu, he has no conscious feeling that he did anything wrong. Like Netanyahu, for Deri politics is who gets what, when, and how. Like Netanyahu, he enjoys the feel of power and has no aversion to using it.

Both are outsiders. Even as prime minister, Netanyahu is still the man from nowhere, going home. His TV appearance after learning that he wouldn't be indicted was not just back to square one. It was back to Zion Square and the "Rabin is a traitor" rally.

After he completed his statement to the nation, he answered questions from CNN—not from the Israeli media.

Netanyahu runs the Prime

Minister's Office as though it were the command post of an underground movement. Netanyahu himself has not completely surfaced. Sometimes it is difficult to tell whether he has any firm loyalties, ideological or personal.

There have always been doubts about his objectives. A distinguished foreign observer, Conor

With the change of government in 1992, Rubinstein remained cabinet secretary under Yitzhak Rabin, serving in key diplomatic roles as well.

Danny Naveh, the present cabinet secretary, makes no pretense that he is a non-political civil servant. He appeared on TV to defend Netanyahu over the Bar-

Political cynicism unites two of the central characters in the Bar-On Affair

Cruise O'Brien, reviewing Netanyahu's *A Place Among the Nations* in *The New York Times* Book Review of May 9, 1993, opined that if Netanyahu ever came to power, he would prove a statesman, and as a statesman would recognize the need to sacrifice the Golan Heights.

When it comes to personal loyalties, the joke quoted recently by Akiva Eldar in *Ha'aretz* tells it all. "Question: How is Netanyahu like the Patriarch Avraham? Answer: Both married Sarah, both got rid of the mistress, both made a deal on Hebron, and both are ready to sacrifice Tzahi."

On Affair no less often than the prime minister's media adviser, Shai Bazak—even though Naveh was among those who advised Netanyahu against the appointment.

Deri, the ethnic outsider, plays politics as a species of civil disobedience. The rules have been set by those who have already made it.

Justice involves not playing by the rules, but manipulating them to remedy injuries suffered in the past.

Asked how he felt about the wave of personal criticism from the Bar-On Affair, Deri said he wasn't concerned. The criticism, he said, did not come from his constituency or from his movement. That was all that mattered.

The others wouldn't accept him anyway. Deri and Shas, the Sephardi movement he leads, did not turn the Bar-On Affair into an ethnic issue after the decision on indictment. For them, it was an ethnic issue from the start.

As David Glass, the Shas attorney, has observed, norms of political behavior are not changed by the procedures of criminal law. A previous Sephardi political leader, Aharon Abuhazzeira, was reelected to the Knesset after he was convicted of embezzlement.

In 1988, both Agudat Yisrael and Shas used rabbinical blessings

and curses to garner votes. Subsequently, Dan Meridor, as justice minister, had the law amended to make those practices criminal, as a form of buying votes or procuring them through coercion.

Blessings and curses are less prominent now at election time. Instead, there is the Shas Kabbalist, Rabbi Yitzhak Kadourie, who passes out good luck charms. It will be interesting to see how Deri goes about straightening out his legal complications on his next try.

Meanwhile, it was entirely fitting that he and Netanyahu spent the evening before the attorney-general's decision together. Worlds apart though they are, they were made for each other.

The writer comments on legal and political affairs.

POSTSCRIPT

A LAST-MINUTE stay blocked an execution in Birmingham, Alabama, so the condemned man could donate a kidney to his brother—which raised an ethical question for doctors who would oversee the donor's recovery.

"Why do you allow someone to recover and be completely healthy before killing them?" said Dr. J. Harold Helderman, medical director of the Vanderbilt Transplant Center in Nashville.

The idea of removing an organ from Alabama death row inmate David Larry Nelson, and then helping him get well enough to be put to death in the electric chair was unsettling to physicians, who also wondered if Nelson was truly a voluntary donor.

"This sounds to me to be distasteful and I'm not sure what we will do here," said Helderman.

The six doctors on Vanderbilt's kidney transplant team must resolve ethical issues surrounding the odd situation before work proceeds toward an operation, Helderman said.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE JERUSALEM BOOK FAIR

Sir, — They say comparisons are odious, but after attending the wonderful Book Fair with its Jewish Book Week in London last month, this year's Jerusalem Book Fair pales in comparison. Having spoken to numerous stall-holders here, who were very disappointed with the attendance, I think I can pinpoint some of the reasons apart from the inclement weather.

First of all, in London, entrance was free, as was the catalog and calendar of events. Here, the price was prohibitive for a family—and normally, these events attract whole families. For two parents with three children, the entrance fee would have been NIS 85 plus NIS 25 for a catalog—NIS 110 before you even step in the door, let alone buy books. In London, at Jewish Book Week, there were marvelous events scheduled each day and night for children and adults, at very nominal prices (each event cost about £3—approx. NIS 15) and some were free—not just book launches, but storytelling hours, panel discussions and drama workshops for children.

At my hotel, one wing was for Jewish Book Week and another part for general Book Week at the hotel opposite, they hosted Antiquarian Book Week etc. There seemed to be a lot of interaction between authors, publishers and agents, and because entrance was free, even large families turned up and bought books.

In London, both *The Times Literary Supplement* and *The Jewish Chronicle* devoted whole issues to the fair, generating excitement for it with the public.

I think we can learn a lot from the much smaller Book Fair in the UK which hosted associated events in almost every city.

DOVORA WAYSMAN

PARENTING

Sir, — I was looking forward to Allison Kaplan Sommer's new column, "The Mommy Track" (April 7) with great anticipation, having appreciated in the past her quick wit. It began well, and I nodded and even grinned. By mid-article, however, I got bored by her absurd expectations of her newborn, and by the article's end, I was quite disgusted with Ms. Sommer's attitude. It is pretty pathetic that a 32-year-old, no naive teenage bride (her words), had not picked up and read during pregnancy any one of a number of books that explain to a new mother what to expect in and of a newborn. Did she really look forward to interesting political discussions with an infant recently traumatized by multiple shocks such as having to breathe on his own, losing those comforting uterine walls surrounding him and a constant, effortless stream of food? And a "normal human being" from time immemorial has not prepared a bottle for her infant, she has been genetically and physiologically programmed to breastfeed. That is the reason, Ms. Sommer, that your son was "not interested" in that problem of yours.

Although born with their own personalities, infants are not miniature adults. This concept has never been lost in what some may call "primitive cultures," but certain groups from "Western cultures" (followers of the Ezzo method and hard-line feminists) have recently placed an aberrant, me-first spin on parenting. What message does a mother give her child when she gives fervent thanks to her day-care provider so she can go to work, which she regards as a vacation? Sorry, Ms. Sommer, you're not funny. Try to find a parenting support group.

JUDY HOLTZER KNÖPF

CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Sir, — It is terrible that Stewart Weiss is upset that all the Orthodox are being tarred with the brush of religious extremism and oppression! (*Opinion*, April 11). Perhaps he should start by applying his own advice to himself.

In his article, he details allegations against the Reform. But, without offering any "evidence," he also condemns Conservatives to the trash heap of treifism, by denying rabbinic rights to anyone, except when done under "Orthodox halachic guidelines."

I think I have a fairly good idea of the meanings of both "Orthodox" and "halachic," respecting the former and revering the latter. However, despite Weiss's attempts to have us believe the contrary, it must be stated that the Movement for Masorti (Conservative) Judaism in Israel is indeed halachic. Sometimes, as with Shabbat and kashrut, our readings of Halacha may generally be quite close to the Orthodox. In other cases, our scholars—no less bright and no less intellectually honest than theirs—may come out with different interpretations. This is not unheard-of in genuine Talmudic tradition.

All this does not mean that one side is right and the other side is wrong. However, those of us who are motivated purely by considerations of God, Torah, and *Klal Yisrael* would welcome constructive dialogue, in place of self-righteous divisiveness. Is Stewart Weiss—or anyone in the Orthodox camp—ready to rise to this challenge?

JAC FRIEDGUT
Treasurer,
Movement for Masorti Judaism
in Israel

Jerusalem.

Beersheba.

Jerusalem.

Resist Arafat's blackmail

In the past few weeks, Yasser Arafat has led a terrorist Palestinian group to assume it has his approval for acts of terrorism against Israel. He has urged the Arab League to resume its boycott of Israel. As a result, the peace process has plummeted to its lowest ebb in recent memory.

The behavior of Arafat and his cohorts has reduced the "peace process" to scarcely more than blackmail. The Palestinians and their Arab partners have formulated a dangerous either/or threat: Peace on their terms or suffer their boycotts, bombs and stones. All of this seems to be based on the weird presumption that it will have no impact on relations with the United States.

This presumption is terribly wrong. For years it has been obvious that certain realities have been unclear to the Arab parties to the peace process. The Department of State, constrained by the meaningless rhetoric of diplomacy, is ill-equipped to convey those very clear realities. It is long past time that Arafat and Company wake up and smell the coffee.

The American people are not likely to be bullied away from their friendship and support for the State of Israel. Americans want a foreign policy dictated by values, not by realpolitik. They respect democracy, and they like Israel because they feel comfortable with a system of majority rule, of elections, of civil and political freedom.

Congress needs no pro-Israel lobby to instruct us as to why we should support Israel. The US cares about Israel because the values held dear by Americans are reflected in Israel. Those who undertake to subvert these values earn our enmity. We should not

JESSE HELMS

engage with them, we should not trade with them; we must do our utmost to isolate them. (Witness US policies against Iran and Cuba.)

The Palestinians, led by Arafat, have labored too long under the delusion that because they are engaged in an illusory, on-again, off-again peace process with Israel, they have no obligation to

Americans want a foreign policy dictated by values, not by realpolitik

abide by the standards expected of other nations in partnership with the United States. The Palestinians must understand the choice confronting them: They can adopt our values, reject further terrorism, and embrace democracy, or they can join the pariahs.

For other participants in the Arab League's recent hate-fest in Cairo, similar conditions apply. There are indeed relationships with many Arab states that are important to us. But if they undertake to revert to the old boycott days, there are US laws to restrict the scope of our relations, and they will be applied.

These realities must be made completely clear throughout the Middle East, especially in light of the impending final status talks between Israel and the Palestinians. There is little doubt that once the peace process clears this current hurdle, discussions of the ultimate disposition of the

West Bank and Jerusalem can and will commence.

On this, the views of the Congress are clear: Jerusalem is the united capital of the State of Israel, and the US will support its remaining so forever. If this is unacceptable to the Arab parties to the peace process, if they resort to terrorism, boycotts and other failed policies of the past, relations with the United States will surely deteriorate.

US acceptance of the Palestine Liberation Organization as a negotiating party in the peace process was conditioned on the PLO's decision to renounce terrorism. For those willing to embrace the fantasy that terrorists are, somehow, freedom fighters, the PLO's words alone were enough. For the rest of us, renunciation of terrorism demands that Arafat and the Palestinian Authority must not merely condemn acts of terror, but must also actively prevent such acts and imprison the perpetrators.

I confess disinterest in the exigencies of Palestinian balance-of-power politics that "require" Arafat to entertain Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

If, during the final status talks, we are obliged to look forward to PLO-sanctioned acts of terrorism and a chorus of threats from the Arab League, Israel and its friends will have little incentive to attend such talks. That would not, of course, reflect any change in the US relationship with Israel, which is based on shared values. But it will bode ill for the US-Palestinian relationship, which, after all, is based on the peace process and little else.

Sen. Jesse Helms is chairman of the US Foreign Relations Committee and author of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act.



An Israeli still stuck in Egypt

P. DAVID HORNIK

The trial of Azzam Azzam, the Druse Israeli arrested in Egypt on grounds of being an Israeli, or on trumped-up spy charges, began yesterday. I was reminded of Azzam's plight when a couple of friends told me they were planning to take a short vacation in Sinai.

Normally I hate to moralize to my friends. But I make an exception when it comes to visiting Egypt. So I reminded them of things they already know: that Egypt's media is full of gutter antisemitism; that its government treats Israel as an enemy in the diplomatic sphere, pressuring and threatening it; that while tens of thousands of Israelis keep visiting Sinai and even Egypt proper, Egyptian tourism to Israel is almost totally forbidden.

Furthermore, while my friends enjoy themselves in Sinai, marveling at its wonders, their fellow-Israeli Azzam Azzam is being persecuted there, and it would be decent at least not to set foot in Egypt so long as Azzam is held prisoner. It might have been a good idea

to leave an empty chair for Azzam at our Seder tables. Leaving an empty chair for our missing servicemen is fine; but doesn't Azzam deserve notice too?

That however, would be

Israeli soldiers and Prime Minister Netanyahu clasped his hand and declared him a dear friend.

During the Bar-On Affair, opposition politicians have seethed with outrage at the dubious activi-

We should have left an empty chair at the Seder table for Azzam Azzam

impolitic; it might rile our friends the Egyptians.

THIS holiday season, when we celebrate Pessah, Independence Day, and the rest, is a good time to point out that we have a problem with national pride. Others can murder, maim, imprison us and we're willing to forgive and forget, so long as they smile at us and say the word peace.

It happened last September at the White House meeting after the Hasmonian-tunnel violence. Yasser Arafat had given a green light for a murderous attack on

to conflict and violence, that they're willing to give up not only land but elementary self-respect.

They believe, fallaciously, that by advertising its weakness and desperation, Israel will be rewarded with peace. Our "reward," instead, is the suicide bombers of Hamas and Arafat; the sneers and contempt of Mubarak, who knows he can get away with vile propaganda, the framing of an Israeli, and a massive military buildup directed at Israel.

The trek from slavery to the Promised Land is an arduous one. At this time of year, we should remember the loyal Israeli citizen who stays in Egypt because he's imprisoned there.

As for the rest of us, we should act like free, dignified people dwelling on our own land. That means insisting on the human rights of all Israelis, and refusing to move an inch toward any phony "peace" until those rights are honored.

The author is a writer and translator living in Jerusalem.

Winds of change

MOSHE ZAK

Benjamin Netanyahu is a grand master at understanding what the masses expect of him. But when it comes to selecting his aides and developing a rapport with them, his judgment is completely lacking.

During his 10 months in office, Netanyahu has more than once been forced to rescind appointments already made public, and an even greater number still in the planning stage. The most notorious example is Dan Avidan, his first choice as attorney-general, who ended up as the main witness against him in the Bar-On inquiry.

The unavoidable conclusion — one to which Netanyahu immediately agreed upon release of the attorney-general's findings — is for him to abdicate his exclusive authority in selecting people for key positions, and give it to a ministerial committee.

Altering the procedure for selecting candidates for top-level jobs indicates an upheaval in his method of governing, and there is already talk in the cabinet of further changes. Given this, Netanyahu will be left no choice but to accept the end of the "presidential era," and to come to terms with the conventional parliamentary system in effect prior to the passage of the law on direct election of the prime minister.

Under the previous system, the prime minister was the first among equals. Unlike in the US, cabinet members were party to decisions, and did not just do what they were told by the boss. Netanyahu will now be forced to include other ministers in the appropriate discussions and decisions, but it is safe to assume that this will not be the end of the story.

Cabinet ministers will take a more active role, and will not be asked to merely ratify decisions he made without consulting them.

This will be the first outcome of the Bar-On Affair. The second will be the shelving of plans to form a national unity government.

The main pressure to create a national unity government did not come from Shimon Peres, but from Bill Clinton. Though repeatedly stressing that he does not intend to intervene in Israel's internal affairs, Clinton recommended that such a government be established

As a result of the Bar-On Affair, 'presidential' politics, national unity and talks with Arafat could all be suspended

to every Israeli he spoke with, including Leah Rabin.

The bitter struggles which erupted between the government and the opposition following the Bar-On Affair pushed the issue of national unity to the back burner. The opposition's demand that Netanyahu resign will not encourage him to offer partnership in the government to Peres. Thus, at least in the near future, national unity is dead.

THE effects of the affair will also be felt in the peace process. Indeed, Clinton hurried to express the hope that the crisis would not disturb the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. But a great divide separates his hopes from the difficulties in which the Israeli government will be wallowing — even after the failure to indict Netanyahu.

The opposition will not cease its efforts to bring about the establishment of a state commission of

inquiry into the public ramifications of the Bar-On Affair. It will petition the High Court of Justice and work through the Knesset State Control Committee.

The pressure on the government will grow, and it is doubtful whether the prime minister will be able to focus the kind of attention required to plan for the negotiations on the final-status arrangement and the tough bargaining with the Palestinians which awaits him.

It is possible that Netanyahu will want to prove that it's business as usual in his government, despite the opposition's organized campaign to delegitimize him and topple his government. As a result, he will rush into talks with Yasser Arafat, even at the cost of forgetting his promise that there will be no negotiations until the Palestinian Authority proves it is fighting terrorism.

The resumption of negotiations with the Palestinians will please the Clinton administration, but will not forward an agreement. The government cannot deal with both the pressures of a commission of inquiry and the pressures of resolving the issues needed to reach a final-status agreement.

While Rubinstein and Arbel did not find enough evidence to indict Netanyahu for breach of trust, the public debate which arose from the publication of their findings has weakened the government. And it is dangerous to conduct complex negotiations at a time of internal weakness.

Thus, in spite of himself, Netanyahu will be forced to slow the pace of the talks with the Palestinians, and not to speed them up as he had intended. The negotiations will have to wait for the dust to settle on the Bar-On affair.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

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Algerian rebels slay 42

PARIS (Reuters) - Moslem rebels backed to death 42 people in a village south of Algiers, the second massacre in Algeria within 24 hours, Algerian newspapers said yesterday.

The victims, in Omaria village, Medea district, included 17 women and three babies, savaged by killers wielding axes and swords early Wednesday, said *El Watan* newspaper.

There was no immediate official confirmation, but *El Watan* is normally well-informed on security issues. Algerian authorities have in the past remained silent on similar killings which have subsequently been independently

confirmed.

The slaughter brought to more than 300 the number of people killed in recent weeks and coincides with Algeria's countdown to its first parliamentary elections in more than five years.

Attackers moved into Omaria village only 24 hours after 93 people had their throats cut or were hacked to death with farm tools during Monday night in the worst massacre in more than five years of violence.

Another newspaper, *Liberte*, said the 42 people in Omaria, about 50 kilometers south

of Algiers, were killed by having their throats cut. Another 25 villagers were wounded, it said.

"This hamlet has already suffered one attack by armed groups during Ramadan in 1996 when 25 peaceful, defenseless villagers were assassinated," *Liberte* added.

News of the latest killing broke as condemnation grew over the earlier slaughter of the 93 people, including 43 women and girls. They died in an isolated farming community Haouch Boughlef-Khemisti, only 25 km south of Algiers.

Yeltsin names reformer new energy chief

Sharon's Moscow trip may be delayed

By DAVID HARRIS
and news agencies

Boris Nemtsov, the 37-year-old first deputy prime minister appointed fuel and energy minister yesterday, is a popular champion of liberal reforms and a potential successor to President Boris Yeltsin.

His telegenic good looks, mop of dark curly hair and easy charm made him a household name across Russia even when he was still only a regional governor.

The change in personalities has led to a possible delay in National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's planned trip to Moscow at the end of this month. Sharon is scheduled to meet senior Russian officials and the head of Gazprom, the world's largest gas producer. Sharon will discuss regular purchases of natural gas from Russia, as a potential replacement for the Egyptian gas that Israel is in protracted negotiations to buy.

Yeltsin, who has long admired Nemtsov's youthful energy, drafted him into the government last month to oversee the restructuring of natural monopolies like gas, electricity and railways and also tackle housing reform.

"You can already tip him for president," Yeltsin said of Nemtsov as long as three years ago.

Nemtsov is rumored to be

behind the 66-year-old president's latest crusade against corruption and he also played a role in watering down a controversial union treaty with neighboring Belarus, which has been resisting market reforms.

Earlier yesterday, anticipating the announcement on Nemtsov, Yeltsin spoke of the need to promote younger people to safeguard Russia's reform process.

The move was a new warning to seasoned Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who has seen control of economic reforms shift away from him under the reshuffle and whose hopes of succeeding Yeltsin in the year 2000 appear to be receding.

A recent survey by the Public Opinion Foundation named Nemtsov as the most trusted Russian politician, ahead of other potential future rivals for the presidency like populist Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov and former security chief Alexander Lebed.

Nemtsov has made clear in a book soon to hit Russia's stores that he wants to go down in history as a man who made life better for ordinary Russians. "My success will be absolute when people start living better and, if my investment in this success is visible, when people say 'it was so-and-so in the Nemtsov times and now it is different,'" he wrote.

4 sentenced in Jewish cemetery desecration

PARIS (Reuters) - A French court yesterday jailed four neo-Nazis for up to two years for desecrating a Jewish cemetery in southern France in 1990 in an attack that caused revulsion throughout the world.

The Marseille court sentenced the two ringleaders, Olivier Fimbray and Patrick Laonegro, to two years in jail, the maximum term. The other two defendants, Yarnick Garnier and Bertrand Nouvau, received 20-month sentences.

Garnier's confession last July led to the arrest of his accomplices six years after the attack in Carpentras, which the then Socialist government blamed on the ideology of extreme-right National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen.

The desecration, in which the recently buried body of Felix Germon was dug up, his body sodomized with a beach umbrella, and 34 graves wrecked, shocked France.

All four defendants, in their late 20s or early 30s, expressed remorse for the desecration in court. But Fimbray and Laonegro said they still admired Nazi ideology while the other two said they had since abandoned fascist views.

At the time of their arrests, investigators said, all four were either members or sympathizers of the tiny Nationalist French and European Party, which became known in the 1980s in connection with a series of attacks on Arab immigrants.

Le Pen seeks 20 seats in French elections

PARIS (Reuters) - Far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen said yesterday he hopes his National Front party will win 20 seats in France's forthcoming election, enough for it to form its own parliamentary group in the National Assembly.

The Front, which wants to ship home millions of immigrants and institute a preference for "native-born French people" in jobs, welfare and education, currently has no seats in the assembly and opinion polls show it winning only a few in the May 25 to June 1 polls.

Group status would enable Front deputies to join legislative committees and draw on assembly staff and other resources, including better media access.

Le Pen set the goal of 20 seats while releasing the names of Front candidates standing in 566 of France's 577 electoral districts.

But the outspoken National Front leader insisted he had not yet decided whether he himself will run.

Asked about jibes by rival politicians that he would not run because he was afraid of losing, Le Pen replied: "I often learn lessons from my political colleagues, but these are rarely lessons of courage."

Although his name does not appear on the National Front slate, he insisted that all the party's candidates "would be delighted to give up his spot" so that he could run.



Jean-Marie Le Pen (AP)

To our dear friend
Abe Friedman
and family

we extend our heartfelt
condolences
on the passing of his wife

DEVORA ז"ל

Victor and Adrea Carter

**Turkey
opposition
seeks probe**

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkey's chief opposition party yesterday requested a parliamentary probe of the interior minister, adding to pressure on the Islamist-led coalition.

The Motherland Party asked for the probe into claims minister Meral Akseener had abused her position in the removal of national police chief Alaadin Yuksek in a clandestine, overnight sacking last month.

"It is an abuse of duty to start a (new) public official in a post during a night operation which did not conform with the law," said the demand presented to the speaker of parliament's office.

The motion, which must be considered by parliament within a month, could be a fresh test of Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's coalition with conservatives.

The military-dominated National Security Council in February ordered the government to crack down on what it saw as rising Islamist activism since the coalition came to power last June.

**War criminal,
awaiting
deportation,
dies in Canada**

TORONTO (AP) - A convicted war criminal whom Canada sought to deport reportedly has died before his case could be settled.

Joseph Nemzila, 83, of Oshawa, Ontario, moved to Canada in 1950 from Slovakia, where he had been convicted of taking part in Nazi war crimes.

He died last Friday, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. reported.

Last August, a Federal Court judge ruled that Nemzila should face a deportation hearing. But Nemzila's lawyer said appeals could tie up the case for years.

Government lawyers said Nemzila killed Slovak citizens during World War II and commanded a paramilitary unit that deported Jews to Auschwitz.

He was tried in absentia in 1958 and sentenced to five years in prison for murder.

**Zaire rebels allow UN
workers to head for
refugee camp**

KISANGANI, Zaire (Reuters) - Aid workers headed under rebel escort to camps in eastern Zaire yesterday where villagers had reported fierce fighting between Rwandan refugees and rebel forces.

Witnesses said a five-vehicle UN convoy and a carload of journalists escorted by two pickups carrying rebels left the northeastern city of Kisangani for the camps to the south.

The UN refugee agency UNHCR and some journalists were earlier yesterday told by rebel authorities to be on standby for a trip to the camps, sealed off by rebels since Monday.

UNHCR fears that many of the 80,000 Rwandan refugees south of Kisangani have already fled because of fighting Tuesday.

The rebels allowed access after UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he was "shocked and appalled by the inhumanity" of their action which he said was killing refugees by starvation.

Zairean villagers said Wednesday Tutsi-dominated rebels had killed many Rwandan Hutu refugees at Kasese, 25 kilometers south of Kisangani, where 55,000 were in makeshift camps. They said a pitched battle between rebels and refugees

accompanied the slaughter Tuesday at camps near Kasese. Rebel leader Laurent Kabila dismissed the reports as "total nonsense," saying Rwandan Hutu militiamen among the refugees attacked villagers and rebels intervened to stop the fighting.

Rwandan state radio said Wednesday fighting had been going on for two days between rebel forces which were ambushed by former Rwandan troops and Interahamwe militiamen among the refugees.

It said the rebels initially intervened to restrain Zaireans who had attacked the camps and looted food aid from a train.

Aid workers have accused the rebels of orchestrating attacks on aid vehicles and looting of aid since Friday after delaying until May 5 a UN airlift of up to 100,000 refugees south of Kisangani.

Annan told reporters in New York the refugees lived in deplorable conditions and promises to allow humanitarian agencies to help them had not been kept.

"I have therefore appealed to the international community to work with me in pressing Kabila and those in the region who back him, to push him to allow assistance to the refugees," Annan said.

**Lebanese
merchants
face trouble
in Zaire**

LUBUMBASHI (AP) - The knock at Jaber Fadel's door during a late dinner with eight fellow Lebanese turned out to be a chilling sign of change for the prosperous and often hated merchants.

Police from the rebel forces now controlling Zaire's second-largest city had arrived to take them away for questioning. They were released two hours later, but the message was clear: Rebels fighting to topple Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko were in charge and Lebanese businessmen with ties to the Mobutu regime were in trouble.

"What makes the Zairean people mad is that a large portion of the Lebanese collaborated with the military and political authorities," said Kalal Mbuyi, a Lubumbashi lawyer who has Lebanese clients.

Some Lebanese admit they dealt with a corrupt system - usually with payoffs - to get ahead.

Now they face the envy of poor Zaireans and the animosity of rebels who suspect them of helping to smuggle and steal the country's wealth during Mobutu's 32-year regime.

Australia conceives Koala contraception program

MELBOURNE (AP) - Australian scientists are implanting birth control hormones in koalas in a landmark experiment aimed at stemming a population explosion of the cuddly critters in a few areas.

The trial on 100 koalas began this week in response to a unique problem facing the species - while the koala population is dwindling in most parts of Australia, a few overpopulated pockets are running out of food for the animals.

Australia introduced koalas on six isolated islands some 70 years ago in a bid to preserve the species from extinction, but the animals bred rapidly and are facing starvation after eating themselves out of available food, said Peter Menkhurst, a member of the birth control program.

Koalas live off leaves from certain types of eucalyptus trees. When a population grows too big, trees can be stripped bare by the hungry teddy bear-like marsupials.

Menkhurst said the hormone implants will be test-

ed for effectiveness as contraceptives for up to five years. It is believed to be the first time hormones have been used to manage wild animals anywhere in the world.

The trials involve injecting a small silicone tube containing a hormone just beneath the skin between shoulder blades of both males and females at the Tower Hill Game Reserve near Warrambol, about 160 kilometers southwest of Melbourne.

"Some measures have had to be taken to reduce the ecological damage that koalas are causing," said Menkhurst, the senior wildlife policy officer at the Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

"Culling was unacceptable and on balance we chose trial birth control for both males and females as the best available option," he said.

The koalas have been tagged to allow the effects of the hormone to be evaluated.

In healthy populations, koalas produce one joey every year.

In deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our mother and grandmother

YETTA GLATZER

Wife of the late Rev. Aaron Glatzer

The funeral will take place today, Friday, April 25, 1997, at 11 a.m., at Shikun Vatikim Cemetery, Netanya.

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The Family

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(of Chicago)

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For information phone 03-5274850

The Family

To the Herzog Family

Our deepest condolences on the passing of

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Sixth President of the State of Israel

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To the Herzog Family

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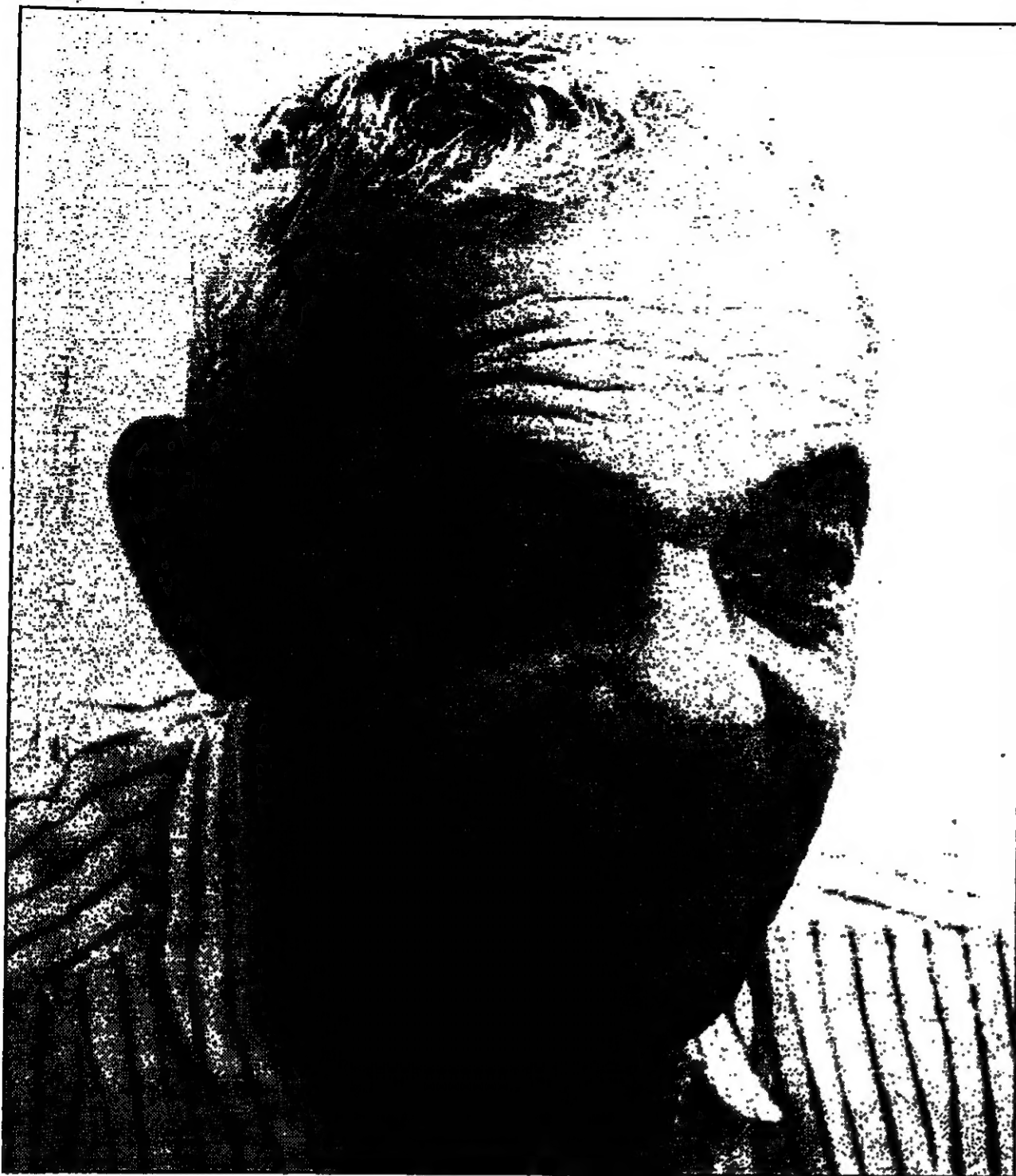
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הכבוד רב

A heavy-hearted decision



Harel: I don't know if we made the right decision or not.



Sharansky: As far as public norms were concerned, it stank.

(Alon Ron/Israel Sun)

Because of land and peace

Before publication of the attorney-general's report on the Bar-On Affair, MK Yehuda Harel, chairman of the Third Way, said that if the report was especially critical of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the other principals in the scandal, his party would leave the government.

After publication, Harel described the report as "very grave." Yet the Third Way decided not to leave. Why? Because of land and peace, Harel said in an interview.

"If we leave, the government won't fall anyway and the peace process will be finished," Harel said, arguing that the Third Way is the coalition's strongest supporter of the peace process.

Beyond that, he said that "if we leave, the government will move in the direction of the National Religious Party, and when it comes time to give back territories — because that's what the Americans want — they won't give back Samaria, they'll give back the Jordan Valley instead."

The Third Way, which has four seats in the Knesset, was founded mainly by Kibbutniks, moshav members and military men who left the Labor Party after it moved too far left for their taste during the Rabin regime. The party has close ties to the Jordan Valley and the Golan Heights, both because it

sees these areas as critical to Israel's security, and because the settlers there are, in the main, from the Labor movement.

Harel said that in the weeks

"The Netanyahu administration's attacks against the media, police, State Attorney's Office and Supreme Court must end."

leading up to publication of the Arbel-Rubinstein report, he sounded out Labor leaders on their attitude toward keeping the Golan and the Jordan Valley, with an eye toward finding out if the Third Way had an option of bolting the government and following Labor to new elections.

He came away from these meetings convinced that Labor would trade away the Golan and the Jordan Valley for peace treaties, which left the Third Way with nowhere to go.

But the party has an image of integrity — its leader, Internal Security Minister Avigdor

Kahalani, left a promising career in Labor because of his allegiance to the Golan.

The Third Way's members claim to have high principles on matters other than borders. Would the party have stayed in the government no matter what the report said — even if Netanyahu was indicted — because of its commitment to the Jordan Valley and the Golan?

"No," Harel replied. "On political grounds our place is with this government, but sometimes things happen that are so bad you can't swallow them. The question was whether the report reached that point or fell short." By a vote of 8-4 with three abstentions, the Third Way secretariat decided that the report fell just short of unsalvageable. The majority included all four of the party's Knesset members.

"We made the decision with a heavy heart," Harel said. There are conditions attached — demands that Netanyahu make changes, chief among them "that he stop attacking the media. The administration's attacks against the police, the State Attorney's Office and the Supreme Court all must end, but first on the list is the media," Harel said.

Is he at peace with the decision to remain in the government? "I don't know if we made the right decision or not," he replied. "Time will tell."

The two parties most likely to bolt the government over the Bar-On Affair findings were Yisrael Ba'aliya and the Third Way. Why did they stay? Larry Derfner speaks to party leaders Yehuda Harel and Natan Sharansky

Right after Channel 1 reporter Ayala Hasson broke the Bar-On story, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky laid down the bottom line: "If even 10 percent of this story is true, this government has no right to exist."

After the attorney-general's report came out, Sharansky declared: "There isn't 25% here, there isn't 10%, there isn't 1%." With seven seats in the 66-seat coalition, the departure of Sharansky's Yisrael Ba'aliya party could bring down the government, but they decided to stay on.

In an interview, Sharansky tried to clarify what his yardstick was, what all these percentages meant: "All along I felt that if there was a criminal conspiracy, and the prime minister played an active role in it, that would be 100%. If there was a criminal conspiracy and he chose to shut his eyes to it, that would be 10%."

Sharansky said that after the report came out, he asked Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein if there was proof that Netanyahu had "closed his eyes" to a crime, and was told there wasn't.

But what about State Attorney Edna Arbel's statement that even though there wasn't enough proof to indict Netanyahu, "a real suspicion" remained that he knowingly lent his hand to an attempt to cor-

"You have to know more than just how to achieve power; you have to know what to do with power once you get it."

rupt the office of attorney-general?

"We didn't need an investigation to confirm that there was a suspicion. But suspicion is not proof. I'm not going to take such a fateful decision on the basis of a suspicion," he said.

Sharansky is well aware that he is a symbol of integrity in Israeli politics, and that he is trusted and respected by people across the political spectrum.

Wasn't he worried that by staying in the government, his image would be tarnished, and many of his admirers would be disappointed in him?

"I think people were satisfied that whatever decision I made on this matter, it would not be out of personal or career considerations. As long as I'm at peace with myself, then I feel I've fulfilled my responsibility," he said.

"There probably will be a lot of people disappointed with me, but what really disappoints me is that all the reaction I've gotten from people has been political." Meaning that people in the government congratulated him, and people in the opposition criticized him? "Yes," Sharansky replied.

For all this, he is far from being at peace with what the report turned up about the government's functioning in the Bar-On appointment. "As far as public norms

Continued on Page 10

TWO DAYS ON THE GOLAN

Widely recognized as perhaps Israel's most important security asset, the Golan is for the moment on the back burner. But it won't be there for long. So what better time than now to join Shorashim and The Jerusalem Post for an in-depth, English-speaking two day tour of the area. We'll visit the settlements, examine the security issues and view the terrain, the animals, the water and the beauty.

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CORRECTION
The James Carter Quartet will perform on May 29 and not as stated in the ad on the second page of the Magazine.

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SAVE WATER

End of the presidential reign

The Bar-On Affair did not cut short Netanyahu's term as prime minister, but it has put an end to his presidency, Sarah Honig writes

Soon after it became known that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would not be charged over the Bar-On Affair, Meretz leader Yossi Sarid solemnly pronounced Netanyahu's government dead. But Sarid may have only given voice to his wishful thinking. He surely did not check for vital signs.

Had he followed impartial diagnostic procedure, he would have had to admit that the patient is alive and kicking. He is by no means better off after the near-fatal bout with acute Bar-Onitis, but curiously his life expectancy may actually have been extended — providing the High Court doesn't pull the plug on Netanyahu's lifeline.

Many in Netanyahu's own Likud party likened his administration to a young upstart injured in an accident to which his recklessness was a contributing factor. While the doctors tried to mend a fractured bone, they came across a potentially disastrous tumor and removed it. The patient will not be the same after the excision and will certainly be unable to do all that he thought he could before. But because he underwent the painful procedure, he was perhaps saved from a malignancy which would have eventually claimed his life.

The report released by Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel said there was insufficient evidence to indict the prime minister, but "substantial suspicion" that a serious and criminal breach of trust had occurred.

Most of the Likud in-house diagnosticians identified Netanyahu's affliction as a Presidency Syndrome. This, they say, caused Netanyahu to behave like an American president rather than like the familiar Israeli prime minister of the known genetic mold, who must take careful account of every last coalition cell. They even claim to have isolated the root cause of the malady — it is a contamination traceable to the direct elections system.

Netanyahu is the first prime minister in Israel's history to be able to claim a direct mandate from the people and not, theoretically, to depend on the good-will and petty foibles of those around him. Likud MK Uzi Landau, who had long warned of the dangers to democratic health by the introduction of direct elections, figures that "in an administration in which the prime minister is part of a team rather than a solo player, he is less susceptible to disease. This is not necessarily always so."

"We saw many abuses under Labor in the old system, most recently the stealing of right-wing votes by granting personal favors to Tsomet's Gonen Segev and Alex Goldfarb. This was perhaps among the ugliest and most putrid sores on the flesh of Israeli public life," maintains Landau.

"But in general, a prime minister who remains attuned to those around him, rather dismissing their advice and warnings, has a far better chance of staying healthy."

LIKUD INSIDERS say it was the quest for a "non-establishment" attorney-general that led to Bar-On's appointment. In the view of Netanyahu and those near him, the Left, even when out of power, continues to be this country's establishment, while the Likud provides a unique precedent in political-science history. Though it forms the government, it remains not only outside the country's establishment, but is constantly attacked by it.

The problem, say Likud insiders, was the way Netanyahu went about finding a "non-establishment" attorney-general. "Had it not been handled with the high-handedness of an American president, everything might have even worked out for Netanyahu, even if his attorney-general had ended up being someone else," says Communications Minister Limor Livnat, one of Netanyahu's harshest critics lately. She had considered bolting the government after



The government is still reeling over the Bar-On Affair, but the blow was far from fatal.

(Flash 90)

the redeployment moves and in the Bar-On Affair had one foot out already, until the decision not to indict Netanyahu, and the softer-than-expected criticism of him, allowed her to step back.

She and like-minded ministers now hope that the prosecution's scalpel removed the last of Netanyahu's presidential tendencies and that no trace vestiges are left to grow back.

The ministers hope that Netanyahu will get back on his feet, but as their man, as no more powerful than the somewhat disabled past prime ministers to whom local politicians have developed a functional tolerance.

The bottom line of the Bar-On affliction is that it cost Netanyahu his presidency. The consensus in the Likud is that, as he recuperates, Netanyahu will be forced to swallow bitter pills. He won't be able to ignore his ministers. He promised not to and the wary

ministers can now be counted on to maintain a close watch for any indication of regression or relapse.

For a while at least Netanyahu will be robbed of his independence to deviate from what the ministers interpret as his mandate. He will be hindered by and

indisposed, as well as with those who almost abandoned him. He will have to reward the first and lead his ear to the latter, while they try to twist his arm.

Only the hapless Finance Minister Dan Meridor may be unable to take advantage of Netanyahu's feebleness. He lost

As Netanyahu recuperates, he will be forced to swallow bitter pills. He won't be able to ignore his ministers

debted to those who strongly supported him, as well as to those who did not. As he becomes more robust he may try to break free, but for now, as long as he remains somewhat infirm, he will need to massage egos of friends and foes alike and to at least be seen to consult with those who supportively nursed him when he was

much of his golden-boy popularity, and those who expected him to trigger the domino effect to topple the Netanyahu government will question his integrity now. Netanyahu clearly cannot afford vendettas and he will not appear to touch a hair on Meridor's head. But Netanyahu was to begin with coerced to appoint Meridor and

there never was any love lost between the two.

Unlike Livnat, Meridor is eyed with deep suspicion and the Bar-On episode merely served to intensify it. Wagging Likud tongues ascribed accomplice status to Meridor in the anti-Netanyahu drive and some intimated that he would have been happier had Netanyahu fallen.

This may have also been the secret wish of Yasser Arafat, assess some of Netanyahu's aides. PA propagandists were quick to pronounce that to placate local opinion, Netanyahu will now become less yielding.

They know that Israeli politics don't function this crudely, but their instincts that life will be tougher for them are right on the money.

NETANYAHU HAD a hard time passing even minimal concessions in the first phase of with-

drawal from Judea and Samaria. He will have to bend his ministers instead of dictating to them, he will be far more restricted.

He will not be able to be more generous in the second phase of Natan Sharan's. Yuli Edelstein and Limor Livnat, who had problems with the Hebron deal, now have a greater voice.

In the recent past Netanyahu could keep his Rightist opponents at bay by threatening them with the big national-unity stick. If they were too much trouble, then Shimon Peres was waiting in the wings, all too eager to jump in and resuscitate his claim on his own party's leadership.

Netanyahu has now lost that stick. The Right in his cabinet knows, along with Peres, that the national-unity option was cut out by Netanyahu's surgeons, rendering Peres indirectly the single greatest victim of the whole affair. His leadership in Labor is a sure goner.

It would take a miracle cure, which no one in Labor can foresee, to revive Peres's prospects of keeping his leadership alive and viable.

National unity was one hope for him but he himself severed its tenuous hold on life when he joined the virulent chorus of his opponents within Labor, who clamored for Netanyahu's resignation after the police recommendations became known but before the prosecution had its word. Peres perhaps had no choice. He could not go against overwhelming sentiment in his party.

His second hope was snuffed when Netanyahu was not indicted, ruling out early elections. These could have offered Peres a remote chance to push himself in as Labor's candidate for prime minister.

He is judged as too old to run in the year 2000, but not in 1997. He could have tried to do away with the June 3 primary, at which he will now be replaced, or he could have thrown his hat in at the last moment. Such chances have now expired.

There may have been a cancerous growth in the Netanyahu government, but the political life it took was Peres's. All this probably does not totally dishearten Sarid, who will be glad to bring Peres's national unity to a final and ignominious burial. But for now, Sarid's announcements of Netanyahu's demise are extremely premature.

Bar-On = Watergate? No comparison

Americans here don't believe the present problems plaguing the government bear any comparison to America's most famous political scandal, Elii Wohlgelemler reports

Comparisons between the Bar-On Affair and Watergate have been bandied about a lot since the attorney general's decision on Sunday. Is Israel going through a similar crisis? Will this government fall like Nixon's did? Was the constitutional crisis then comparable to the calls for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to resign now?

Ask Americans who are living here, and the unanimous consensus is a resounding no.

"The real issue of Watergate was not the crime itself. It was the coverup and the tremendous arrogance and disregard for public sentiment," said Rabbi Stewart Weiss, formerly of Chicago, who directs the Jewish Outreach Center in Ra'anana.

"I think that's what really ultimately did it in Nixon. It wasn't so much the crime itself, it was everything that came afterward. Here it really revolved around the act itself, not around any kind of coverup, or revelations day after day."

"I also don't get the sense of

arrogance, and that was something else that you had as a backdrop, this tremendous antiestablishment feeling against the arrogance of Nixon totally stonewalling [the investigation]. You didn't have that same kind of 'us against them' setup that you had then."

Andrew Silow-Carroll, who is here from Washington for two years as a Jerusalem Fellow (an independent educators' program), said that after Watergate, it seems politics as usual naturally includes these kinds of abuses.

"I grew up in a world where you weren't surprised by such acts. I grew up just assuming that [politics] is a cesspool, and the guy you voted for was the guy who swims in the smallest cesspool. But you

just can't compare it to the depth of squalor represented by Watergate, the wiretapping and the dirty tricks, and subverting the entire judicial process."

This is a 'petty' political payoff that doesn't compare to how Nixon really tried to circumvent the Constitution. Bar-On is a Tammany Hall kind of scandal, it's not a Nixonian scandal."

Deborah Mark from New York agreed, saying that "in Watergate, we felt that Nixon was betraying the system, that he was the deviant from the system, and now everybody thinks, cynically, that this is the system, which is harder than to isolate somebody and say 'you're wrong.' But I don't know if that's

more about us and where we're at. The truth is that with Nixon it might have stayed equally vague if you didn't have the tape. That was a very unusual situation where you actually get a soundtrack of conversations. And that was the smoking gun. So here, until we have a transcript of what the conversations were, we'll never know."

Weiss said the difference between the two was the degree of the crime. "There it was a massive coverup and a blatant illegal act. Here it was something that amounted to bad judgment. There's just a sense that they're always cutting these backdoor deals and nothing ever really happens with it. The irony is that they didn't even need Shas's votes on Hebron, they had an overwhelming majority."

Silow-Carroll said the better comparison of Netanyahu's problems would be to the current squabbles embroiling President Bill Clinton, "the same sense of, not corruption on the grand scale of Watergate, but on the almost 'petty' scale that seems to be represented by Whitewater, etc. It's more about a real falling in character than a seeming breach of public trust or a criminal act that Watergate represented. The comparison is to the Clinton White House, where most of his problems seem to fall back to a certain kind of cynicism."

The whole comparison to Watergate is false, said Rabbi Micah Halpern, a historian living in Jerusalem who grew up in Annapolis, Maryland, because "the only comparison would be if a crime actually took place, and if the prime minister was someone either behind or knowledgeable of it. And we're so far away from that ever coming into play."

He agreed with Silow-Carroll that the going-ons of the Bar-On Affair were more the workings of politics-as-usual than a grand scheme to subvert justice, and that the only reason that parallels are being drawn between Watergate and Bar-On is because "it's a sense of potential corruption. That

doesn't make a comparison. Corruption happens in government, mistakes are made in government. If that's the comparison, I accept it — mistakes, poor judgment, irresponsible attitudes, looking the other way, etc."

"The reality is that there is indeed corruption in democracies, and Israel's democracy is very young, and as a result it doesn't have things like checks, like congressional committees to check people out."

Mark said the analogy is only valid depending on what is being compared. "If you're comparing the experience of society going through a scandal, or just how crass politics can be, then it's similar. But if you're getting to the point where you're comparing where this leads — who's going to care in 10 years? That's how you can tell how important it is. I don't know too many people who really think much about the Teapot Dome scandal [of 1923], and I'm sure that was very big at the time."

"The Nixon thing is important only because he was the first guy to resign, and it really affected the

"You just can't compare it to the depth of squalor represented by Watergate, the wiretapping and the dirty tricks."

decisions of politics for the next 20 years. Jimmy Carter wouldn't have been elected if it wasn't for Watergate, and you can take it from there."

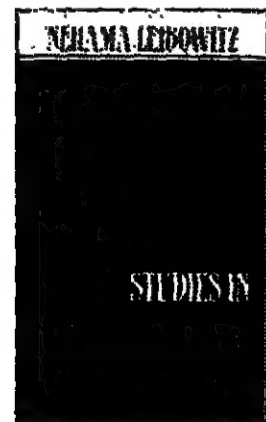
There is one other factor that is fundamentally different in this case, said Mark.

"There's the Sephardi-Ashkenazi element. Watergate had a lot of elements, but it didn't have a racial thing. Here you have constituencies feeling that they're getting screwed, and the business with the party and Qvadia Yosef — you didn't have that type of cheering section [in Watergate]. And how that plays out could be how the Bar-On Affair will be long remembered."

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British Jews set to back Blair

British Labor Party leader Tony Blair has assiduously courted the Jewish community. It looks like it will pay off in next Thursday's elections, Douglas Davis reports from London



Anticipating victory? Labor party leader Tony Blair (left) holds eight pints of Guinness at the London Press Club lunch this week, while Prime Minister John Major has a laugh during a campaign stop in Scotland.

British Prime Minister John Major never tires of repeating the mantra that relations between Britain and Israel are closer than ever. And he is right. Scientific and cultural agreements have been signed, tourism is booming, bilateral trade is burgeoning and there is a regular two-way flow of visits by top government officials, which culminated in a formal state visit to Britain by President Weizman in February. But after 18 years of unremitting Conservative government — first under Margaret Thatcher and, for the past six years, under John Major — the British Jewish community appears ready to join the stampede and sweep the Labor Party's Tony Blair to power next Thursday.

They will be turning their backs on an administration that is committed to the enterprising, up-by-your-bootstraps, family-centered values which are widely perceived to characterize the Jewish community and which smelted the heart of the "Iron Lady."

At the same time they will be embracing a largely unknown quantity in Tony Blair, who has followed Conservative leaders in assiduously courting the Jewish community, not necessarily for its votes or even its money, but for the power and influence it is perceived to exercise within the elites of the scientific, artistic, media, business and industrial communities.

Blair has repeatedly pledged that he would "not repeat the mistakes of previous Labor leaders during the Eighties," who were regarded as insensitive, if not antipathetic, to Jewish causes, notably Israel. Blair has been well rewarded: When the media revealed last year that a secret fund had been set up to finance his office, it was also revealed that the architect of the fund was a prominent Jewish accounting firm in London and that the major donors included leading members of the Jewish community.

Since assuming the Labor leadership three years ago, the solidly middle-class Blair has shaken out many of the old working-class dinosaurs, silenced the rabid New Left and loosened his party's ties to the trade unions, all of which had rendered Labor unelectable in post-Thatcherite Britain.

Then he sat back and watched with evident pleasure as Major, operating with a deeply divided party and an eroding parliamentary majority (which had disappeared altogether by the time the election was called two months ago), appeared to be driven even further to the right by the growing band of Eurosceptical Conservative colleagues.

Party. British Jews are bothered by the Conservative malaise: by charges of a declining commitment to publicly provided health and education, allegations of fiscal and sexual impropriety, and the anti-European sentiments of many Conservative candidates. They have become so accustomed to "Jews in high places" that they appear unmoved even when the Conservative banner is carried by such prominent figures — and "friends" — as Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind and Home Secretary Michael Howard, both of whom are Jewish.

In truth, Blair is unlikely to produce any substantial improvements on the bedrock health and education issues, which polls have shown to be of particular concern to British Jews; nor is he likely to keep the lid on his own Eurosceptics after the election, whether in or out of government.

"The two leaders are fiddling at the fringes," said one political commentator. "Both promise not to raise taxes while both say they will improve public services. The truth is that both are dancing on the same pocket handkerchief."

The critical difference is that while Major is viewed as a weak leader unable to keep his fractious followers in order, Blair had succeeded in imposing discipline on Labor candidates and muzzling his malcontents. There is a perception, inside and outside the Jewish community, that Blair leads a united party; that he has a sharper vision and a more defined sense of purpose.

So far, what worries many doubters is that Old Labor is merely biding its time, allowing Blair — whose boyish face, toothy smile and prominent ears earned him the unkind nickname "Bambi" — to win the election before they emerge from the bunkers, push him aside and re-embrace the old discredited ideologies.

As it is, there is little to separate the two major parties on ideological grounds, and what differences remain are almost too esoteric to bother most voters. It is even a matter of pride that there is almost total consensus on Labor candidates and muzzling his malcontents. There is a perception, inside and outside the Jewish community, that Blair leads a united party; that he has a sharper vision and a more defined sense of purpose.

On Israel, that means support for the peace process (with a strong emphasis on "Palestinian rights"), no recognition of Israel's claim to any part of eastern Jerusalem or the West Bank and vigorous opposition to "illegal Jewish settlements."

Sources close to Blair say the Jewish community has nothing to fear from New Labor. A Blair administration, they say, will focus on domestic issues, and what time is left for foreign affairs will be devoted mainly to Europe. That, however, does little to mollify those who remember the unreconstructed Old Labor and New Left "Israel-haters."

They have been silenced for the time being, but some retain substantial grass-roots support within the party and a few will certainly occupy seats on the front bench of a new Labor administration. There is also concern that while the Major administration has actively engaged French ambitions and blunted President Jacques Chirac's quest for influence in the Middle East, Blair may be anxious to demonstrate his team-playing skills to his European partners and permit Paris to take a lead.

SIGNIFICANTLY, though, Middle East issues seem almost to have dropped off the agenda of the British Jewish community, which had always prided itself on its unparalleled links with Israel, a function of Britain's relatively close proximity to Israel, the large number of British Jews who visit Israel, family links that result from a high level of aliyah and the hitherto traditional nature of the

community. All that, however, might be changing. According to Antony Lerman, director of the London-based Jewish Policy Research think-tank, British Jews are three times more likely to believe charity money should go to domestic Jewish causes than to Israel.

And although more than three-quarters of British Jews have visited Israel at least once, other information collected by the think-tank in a major recent survey of British Jews suggests

that their identification with Israel is eroding. "It is clear that the closeness of British Jews to Israel cannot be taken for granted," says Lerman. The natural, sentimental, core supporters — older, Orthodox members of British Jewry — remain firm, "but the younger generation needs to have a social attachment," he said. "There will be a much more pragmatic relationship between younger Jews and Israel."

Analysts speculate widely on the reasons for the apparent decline in concern for Israel among the 350,000-strong community that takes a position on the left of the Israeli political spectrum. "If British Jews had been asked to decide the outcome of the last Israeli election," said one community leader, "Shimon Peres would have won by a landslide." Some argue that the current downturn in attachment to Israel is a "blip" caused by the advent of the Likud and the complications that have snagged the peace process.

They say that the network of familial and emotional links that have bound British Jews and Israel for the past half-century is just too strong and complex to untangle; that the level of concern has not fallen, only the sense of urgency. Israel, they contend, is simply no longer perceived to be confronting an immediate military or economic threat.

Others, like Lerman, believe the change is part of a more profound, systemic shift in attitudes: British Jews, particularly since the Thatcher era, have become comfortable and confident in their British skins. They have achieved influence in an environment that is tolerant and largely devoid of the sort of street antisemitism encountered in other European states, such as France. Moreover, the proliferation of Jewish politicians at the most senior levels in British politics — five in Thatcher's cabinet; two in Major's — served to reinforce an assertive self-confidence that has loosened the community's bonds with Israel.

A future Labor government is unlikely to provide that level of representation for the Jewish community, but the party is at least expected to be represented in parliament by a member who has been described as the "mother of all candidates" — Oona King, a 30-year-old, right-wing, black, Jewish, woman candidate. King, who is standing in the London constituency of Tower Hamlets, is the descendant of Black American slaves on her father's side and Holocaust survivors on her mother's. She is, she tells her predominantly Bangladeshi constituents, well qualified to deal with questions of racism.

Middle East issues seem almost to have dropped off the agenda of the British Jewish community, which had previously always prided itself on its unparalleled links with Israel

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Israel's hope in the sky

The Arrow missile has taken off, while its American counterpart is still on the launch pad.
Steve Rodan interviews Lester Lyles, a US general who oversees both projects

These days, Lt.-Gen. Lester Lyles is like a father of two. His foster child is a success story and his natural child lags far behind.

The foster child is the Arrow II missile defense system program, which has so far cost \$1.59 billion. The US has funded about a third of the project but the system will be used by Israel. On March 11, it had its second straight successful test launch. The intercepting missile struck its target directly.

In contrast is Lyles's natural child, the Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system. On March 6, it failed for the fourth time in a row to hit its target, a test Pentagon officials say was critical to the multi-billion-dollar program.

The result is that US and Israeli officials say that while the Arrow could be ready for deployment by next year, the THAAD is believed to have slipped past its deployment date of 2004.

Enter Lyles. As director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization at the Pentagon, Lyles is responsible for both programs.

The 51-year-old is an engineer by training and worked on the F-16 program at the US Air Force. His job, US defense sources say, is to juggle a US-Israeli program whose success will probably win it more funding from Congress with a purely US anti-missile program whose failures are beginning to exasperate lawmakers and even many within the Pentagon.

His answer has been to promote the Arrow and THAAD as two systems that can support each other during war. As he sees it, the Israeli system could help protect US troops in the Middle East during any war and the THAAD could do the same for the IDF. It is perhaps the first time that a Pentagon official has actually raised the scenario of US and Israeli troops fighting side-by-side.

Another project Lyles is now dealing with is Boost Phased Intercept, known as IBES. The idea is that an enemy missile would be detected by an Unmanned Air Vehicle (a pilot-



Lt.-Gen. Lester Lyles: He is perhaps the first Pentagon official who has actually raised the scenario of US and Israeli troops fighting side-by-side.

less airplane). The UAV would then fire a missile that would destroy the enemy rocket in the early stage of launch, with its warhead exploding inside enemy territory. Lyles says that such a method of destroying missiles poses a real deterrence to an enemy concerned that anything it tries to fire – particularly nonconventional weapons – might explode in his territory.

LYLES ADDRESSED some of the common defense issues facing Israel and the US during an interview in his office in Washington.

How would you characterize the success of Israeli-US cooperation in the Arrow project and where does it go from here? Is there a possibility of fast-tracking the program whereby it would skip some tests of the missile and advance more rapidly toward deployment?

I was pleased with my visit to Israel. I was able to meet with senior defense personnel, the contractors, the military and to actually go out and see the hardware, particularly before the next test. The obvious strong support for the Arrow from

everyone in the defense establishment in Israel for me was exactly what it needs to be.

The full understanding of what Arrow can be in terms of military defense capability was extremely interesting. And with the successes that Israel has had so far, the opportunities to look at an accelerated program to field this capability is something that everybody is looking at very seriously. So, everything I saw was very, very positive.

Israel plans to deploy the Arrow system by the end of the century on an emergency basis. Will this require a lot more money than is currently being made available and will the US be open to increase funding if needed?

The current plans for the program – including development – is obviously supported by the Israeli Ministry of Defense and our involvement has been primarily shared development. Our memorandum of agreement runs out before 2001.

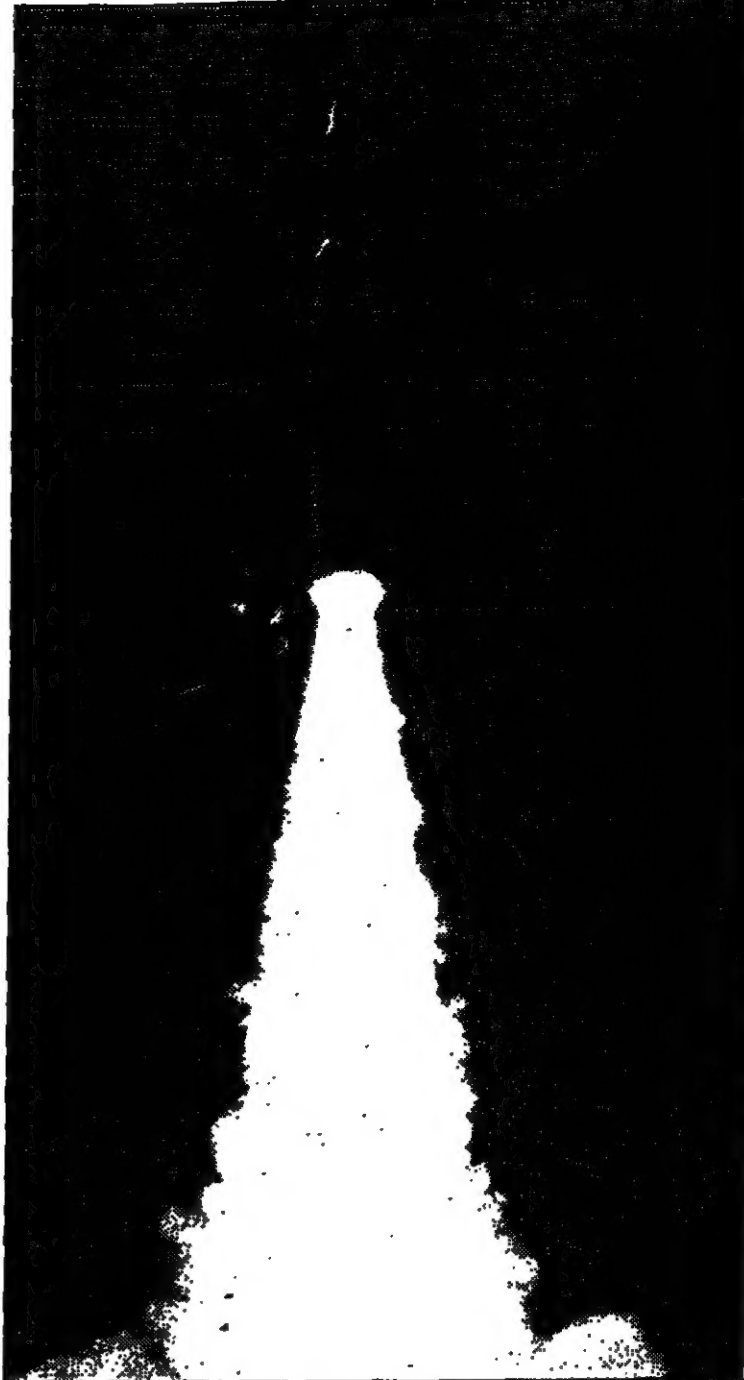
The extent of our current involvement is what we have [so far] committed ourselves to financially. Anything that is beyond that is subject to discussions between the leaders of the two countries. There are some technology and capabilities of Arrow that will be similar to the technology and capabilities that we plan to have for our own missile defense systems, like THAAD.

How do you propose interoperability – the coordination between Arrow and THAAD?

Interoperability is very important. THAAD is several years behind Arrow. Any operability [involves] more than just two systems. We have what we call a family of systems, [which provides] layered defense capability for our missile defense programs. It behooves us to make sure they are all interoperable and can send signals to each other.

They can get information to each other that their mission spaces are compatible and complementary. That's the kind of interoperability that we are focusing on. Arrow fits into that niche in some respects because in some theater scenarios you might imagine, with some contingencies that might take place in the Middle East, we can end up having a combination of US assets and Israeli assets providing missile defense for our allied forces.

So we need to make sure they are talking together, to pass on information to each other. We



First test flight: US and Israeli officials say the Arrow could be ready for deployment by next year.

are all trying to kill the same target that's trying to hit our forces.

So Arrow can augment US missile defense capability?

No, we don't see Arrow as something the US would buy. It is a unique system designed for your specific country and your scenarios. It is your national defense system. The things we're developing are theater missile systems for our forces. What I mean when I talk about them working together is if our forces are in the Middle East area, perhaps working hand in glove with your forces.

We need to make sure that our defense systems can complement each other in terms of protecting our forces and your forces.

Critics in Israel say as a defensive program the Arrow will eat up huge amounts of money on a system that does not provide a deterrence toward a potential enemy. Does it come down to judging the effectiveness of missile defense vs. fighter-jets?

I do consider Arrow somewhat of a deterrent. Ballistic missile defense systems can also be a deterrent. As you know one of the programs is the IBES, [the

BPI system]. That probably has more deterrence than some of the terminal defense systems [i.e. those that shoot down enemy missiles within the target country such as Arrow] in that we potentially will hold out the threat of shooting down an enemy's missile defense system in the first phase in his territory. So, the warheads, the debris, more importantly any weapons of mass destruction, chemical, biological, and God forbid, nuclear, would fall on his forces. That definitely is a deterrent capability and we have that.

The terminal systems like THAAD, and Arrow, aren't perhaps a deterrent [as BPI]. This is why we're working on the Boost Phased Intercept.

Does President Clinton's refusal to implement a law passed by Congress to develop an anti-missile defense system by 2003 hurt Arrow?

No. We are working as aggressively as we think is technically feasible to develop and field missile defense systems. We're also trying to do it prudently in terms of maturity of technology, of engineering and in integration terms. [so that all the components of the system are coordinated, such as the missiles, radar and sensors, so that they are capable of working together].

Israel and the US bring differing approaches on R&D. Israel, with its fast-track, multiple-goal approach, and the US, with its incremental approach. What lessons do both countries, and, of course, particularly the US, draw from the progress of the Arrow program and can and should it be applied to other US R&D projects?

It behooves us to examine accelerated development/deployment. Our acquisition cycle can be very long. This is not always due to the pace of technology. Decision for funding takes a long time.

The Arrow program has been a fairly aggressive program because of the obvious [speed with which events can change in the Middle East], from defining the requirements up front and getting them validated.

That means starting development [in order to] minimize testing. So, you do [enough] testing to prove that it works, balancing that to ensure you don't buy something that may not work. Then, we plan early deployment, [something] we are also talking about with the Israeli government.

SCHNITZER

Continued from Page 1

was tantamount to incitement to racism. He requested that Hammer, who is ministerially in charge of the prize, withdraw it from Schnitzer or request a new decision from the prize committee, which was not aware of the article and the subsequent censure.

Following the petition to the High Court, President Ezer Weizman appealed to Schnitzer to apologize or to forgo the prize. Weizman said he would not award it to him at the awards ceremony on Independence Day.

Last week, the court proposed that Hammer return the subject to the committee and appraise them of facts they had not known before, namely that Schnitzer had been censured by the ethics committee for racist slurs. But Hammer said that, while he decried the contents of the article, this could create a "dangerous precedent" and should be used only in "very rare instances." Instead, he, too, called on Schnitzer to apologize.

In its ruling yesterday, the court stated: "In our opinion, it is necessary and important that the contents of the article and the offense committed by Mr. Schnitzer – a grave ethical offense – be brought to the attention of the committee members before they make a decision. The prize for print journalism is awarded for excellence and it now appears that the person

recommended for the prize has failed, even in the eyes of the minister, in this article."

The article was not merely something which had been written at the early stages of Schnitzer's career, the court pointed out. "The ethics committee took its decision a mere 14 months ago... Therefore there is no choice but to oblige the minister to do what we believe is right and worthy... The committee should rediscuss the issue and take into account the article, the court's decision, and Mr. Schnitzer's position today about what appears in the article."

"This is one big step against racism in Israel," Massala responded on hearing the court ruling. "The court has shown that there is justice and that there will be no legitimacy for racism. The members of the Ethiopian community and all Israelis can be proud today that racism has been condemned in Israel."

While noting that he would abide by the court decision, Hammer said he was "sorry" about it. Until now, the prize had always been awarded without education ministers bowing to public pressure, he said. The court's decision to take a stand also nullified the authority given to the minister on this issue.

"I strongly oppose the views in Schnitzer's article," Hammer said, but added that they are the views of large segments of the population. He said that Schnitzer had been awarded the prize for 50 years of journalism and should not have been disqualified for one article.

This was considered by legal experts to be a precedent-setting ruling, since in previous cases, the High Court had refused to consider objections to the Israel Prize winners.

NO BIAS

Continued from Page 1

"The state attorney, the entire prosecution system, and I do our job without any ethnic or religious bias," Rubinstein said. "The charges being aired that the decision was supposedly taken with an ethnic or religious bias are a fabrication... The ethnic argument never has been, is not, and will never in the future be, God forbid, part of our reasoning."

Rubinstein said the legal experts in the State Attorney's Office had been aware that this issue might be raised, but, he said, the decision concerning Deri was based on the strong evidence against him. "Our decision was taken with great consternation and grief that this had to be so. [However]... we could not ignore the evidence."

He stressed that the evidence had been weighed against all involved, and it was decided that a court case could be supported only against Deri. In reply to a question following the interview, Rubinstein noted that he was personally distressed over this, as he is fond of Deri.

Rubinstein added that the required personal hearing would be held for Deri soon, as would a request for the removal of his parliamentary immunity. Deri would be handed all the evidence against him and given the chance to study it with his lawyers, he said.

At the same time, Rubinstein

stressed, this evidence is against Deri personally and not against the Shas Party. "Their ministers had no information about the affair and no connection with it. It is important for us to point this out," he said.

But Rubinstein was careful to point out that Deri had played a key role. "The apparent evidence is not against a person who was marginally involved in the affair, but rather a central figure who had the major motivation to act in choosing an attorney-general who would be convenient for his personal needs," he said.

"To our great regret, this was not a one-time slip. Our assumption is that every Israeli would like to live in a country where the rule of law is implemented with decency and not by criminal elements exercising remote control."

Turning to the question of indictments against the prime minister and justice minister, Rubinstein said: "The question is being asked why we are not presenting indictments against other figures involved when we have the same set of evidence. Some of these charges have their source in a political debate which is outside our realm. From the legal point of view, we have again made it clear that the difference [with regard to Deri and the ministers] lies in our assessment of the legal evidence... There is absolutely no foundation to the charge that we were 'searching out' MK Deri and those persons who have raised the charge know this."

Rubinstein stressed that the crime involved was an attempt to take over the power of the attorney-general and that this had nothing to do with ethnic background. Hinting at the rallies of support for Deri, Rubinstein said: "The attorney-general and the prosecution have no troops or mass rallies. They accept with love any criticism which is fair and based on facts. They have checked and will continue to check their steps, time and again. They come under the scrutiny of the courts. They will not avoid any political criticisms from any side... Only consideration of the facts will guide them."

In his first public reaction to the Bar-On Affair, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday that Rubinstein should reexamine his decision to prosecute Deri. He also issued a veiled warning that an indictment against Deri would exacerbate Ashkenazi-Sephardi tensions.

"It seems to me the attorney-general needs to reexamine his decisions regarding a number of people, because from what I understand from the decisions of the attorney-general and state attorney, there is no evidence," Mordechai said during a tour of Machpelah Cave in Hebron.

"I wouldn't want any one of us to create any kind of barrier or separation in social relations in Israel," Mordechai added.

Another Likud cabinet member, however, expressed full support for the attorney-general's decision. Communications Minister Limor Livnat told a gathering of the Jabotinsky movement in Tel Aviv that allegations of ethnic bias in Rubinstein's decision are "very dangerous, harmful, and incorrect." She reiterated her complete faith in the decisions of the attorney-general, state attorney, and High Court of Justice.

Meretz Party leader MK Yossi Sarid, however, said in a statement he finds it strange that only Deri is to be prosecuted. "The fact there was someone bribing without someone being bribed is amazing," he said.

Avish O'Sullivan contributed to this report.

SHARANSKY

Continued from Page 7

were concerned, it stank, it really stank," he said.

For this reason, he is taking very seriously the committee he heads with Finance Minister Dan Meridor to oversee future senior government appointments. The panel, chosen by Netanyahu, is to include Rubinstein and other non-political figures.

"If this committee isn't allowed to make real changes, and turns into just another committee, then we [Yisrael Ba'Aliya] will be gone from the government. We'll know the answer within another few weeks," Sharansky said.

While he supports the government's continued right to exist, he cannot say the same for Tzahi Hanegbi's right to continue as justice minister. What's the difference? "Netanyahu was chosen by 1.5 million voters, and there is not enough in the report to overturn that mandate. But Hanegbi has less of a public mandate. I'm not saying he should be kicked out of the cabinet, just that he shouldn't be justice minister."

The reason, he explained, was that during the cabinet debate on the appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general, Hanegbi con-

veniently failed to mention that Supreme Court President Aharon Barak had told him that Bar-On was an unsuitable candidate.

SHARANSKY IS considered Netanyahu's closest personal friend in the cabinet; as UN ambassador, Netanyahu fought for Sharansky's release from a Soviet prison in 1986. Is Sharansky disappointed in his friend? "When I got to know Netanyahu, I saw that he was a man of great intelligence, of analytical power, of vision," he said.

"I had hoped that we would benefit from these traits, but in the last 10 months we've seen that his disadvantages have carried more weight than his strengths. You have to know more than just how to achieve power, you have to know what to do with power once you get it. I don't put all the blame on him, but also on the system."

"This is a difficult period," he added. "We're in a transition from one form of government to a new one, and we haven't worked out the checks and balances yet."

Is he proud to be a minister in this government? "With an affair like this, there's no reason to be proud," Sharansky replied. "It's not a question of pride, though, it's a question of taking responsibility. Anyway, I've never been especially proud to be a politician."



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MIDDLE ISRAEL



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

We salute you, Alberto

While our minds were fixed on Tzahi Hanegbi's latest survival tactics and Aryeh Deri's soccer-stadium horror show, the afikoman was stolen by a short, stem-faced, no-nonsense man in a faraway Peru.

Yes, Alberto Fujimori — the scion of Japanese immigrants who has been at Peru's helm since 1990 — has had his share of problematic decisions, from the suspension of the constitution and legislature in 1992 to a \$300 million purchase last year of warplanes which some argued his country didn't need, and at any rate could not afford.

Yet in the aftermath of Lima's hostage crisis the criticism leveled at Fujimori for being ostensibly over authoritarian can no longer hold water. If anything, the agronomist who reached the top against all odds now looms tall as a role model in the global war against terrorism.

When he came to power, few thought Fujimori — an independent candidate who had just defeated world-renowned author and heavy favorite Mario Vargas Llosa — could restore tranquility to terror-plagued Peru. And yet he did.

True, the methods — including secret trials and sweeping arrests —

were by no means benign, but after everything else had failed, what else besides such an iron fist could put an end to the years of Algerian-style and Maoist-inspired fratricide which cost the lives of an estimated 30,000 Peruvians? Moreover, most purists who lamented Fujimori's dismissal of parliament in 1992 ultimately had to admit that it was largely a mock national assembly, dubiously elected and dominated by favoritism and corruption. In the 1995 election, the public disposed of most of its members of parliament from right and left, while also handsomely re-electing Fujimori, though he was challenged by the widely respected former UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar.

None of this backing would have been won had Fujimori not been equally resolute and effective in dealing with the economic shambles he had inherited.

Faced with inflation of more than 7,000 percent, a negative growth rate of 1.2%, and an absurd taxation system which brought the government less than 5% of the national product, Fujimori knew he must act. He could not afford to emulate numerous democratically elected leaders worldwide who, once in office, often do little or nothing to change the world around them.

And so, in what appears to be the most sweeping Thatcherite revolution anywhere since Thatcher and outside the post-communist world, he sold more than 50 state assets including the telephone company, abolished more than 180 taxes (leaving intact a mere dozen), drastically reduced import duties from an average 75% to a maximum

25%, and introduced a new currency. The results were quickly apparent. Privatization returns topped \$4 billion, internal revenues shot up 200%, foreign investments exceeded \$5b., inflation was trimmed to near single-digit levels, and the economy — not only emerged from its stagnation but in fact registered at one point — in 1994 — a 13% growth rate, the highest in the world that year.

Meanwhile, the stock market, which in 1994 appreciated an average 52% in dollar terms, became a darling of foreign investors who, in the three years since then, nearly doubled its overall value to some \$14b. In other words, while so-called hot money fled South America in the wake of Mexico's peso crisis, a solid block of long-term investors clung on to Fujimori's Peru.

There were no indications of any of them jumping ship during the recent hostage crisis. In all likelihood, having seen his resolve, some of their peers who were sitting on the fence until now, will now funnel new funds in Fujimori's way.

Behind all these dry figures lurks a social renaissance.

The restoration of law and order on the one hand, and the unleashing of private enterprise on the other, have already resulted in the establishment of more than half a million new small businesses, while the systematic cleaning up of the countryside from terrorists, crowned by the arrest in 1992 of Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman, convinced farmers to return to their fields, and subsequently yield record crops.

These newly active farmers, shop owners and small-service providers are where it's really at; it is they — not the soldiers, politicians or foreign investors — who embody the burgeoning broad middle classes whose absence obstructs more than anything else the Third World's road to progress.

Certainly, Fujimori's Peru is no panacea. The country's economic growth has slowed considerably over the past two years, and the national product remains excessively dominated by the extraction of raw materials. Still, though it may not be shining, Peru's path is clearly the right one.

And when a leader is so domestically resolute, his no-nonsense attitudes radiate on his dealing with an international crisis.

It must have taken iron nerves for Fujimori — a permanent recipient of generous Japanese aid — to politely listen to Tokyo's pious winter-long pleading "to resolve the crisis peacefully," which is a diplomatic euphemism for surrender.

Indeed, the nicest thing about his eventual disregard of this ill advice was Fujimori's decision to launch his raid without even notifying Tokyo.

In doing so he not only showed Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto that the president of a remote and poor country could be endowed with no less wisdom and foresight than the leader of a superpower, in fact he left us pondering the meaning of the contrast between an emerging democracy's guts and vitality on the one hand, and Japan's lackluster handling of its own terrorism problems and economic stagnation on the other.

Shortly after World War I, German historian Oswald Spengler suggested in his monumental *Der Untergang des Abendlandes* ("Decline of the West") that imperial success, like biological flowering and climatic cycles, must ultimately be followed by waning and degeneration. Whether or not we are witnessing yet another vindication of this thesis, one cannot avoid noticing that countries like France, Italy, Japan and Israel are not led by Fujimori types, which they all have in abundance, but not in politics.

Built on the debris of the magnificent Inca empire destroyed by Spanish conqueror Francisco Pizarro, Peru loomed ominously for centuries as a monument to the destruction of native civilizations by colonialist greed, violence and hypocrisy. Perhaps the saddest thing about that story was that Pizarro's 180 soldiers managed to beat a 40,000-man Inca army, simply because the Spaniard took hostage the Inca emperor, Atahualpa. After a lengthy period of ransom negotiation he was butchered, thus irrevocably breaking the spirit of his followers.

The similarities between the Tupac-Amaro affair and that traumatically formative experience in Peruvian history need no elaboration. Fortunately, the attempt to butcher Fujimori's leadership failed, mainly because at the end of the day he refused to be taken hostage, whether by local bandits or by foreign photocasts. For that, all freedom lovers at any time, but particularly Israelis celebrating Pessah, should salute him.

Dry Bones



Truth, triumph or travesty?

A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHN

If truth is what you seek, you must rid yourself of the spirit of triumphalism; only then can you prepare to behold the truth.

Rabbi Nahman of Bratzlav

Both parties to the dispute over the Conversion Bill pay lip service to the idea of the unity and creative continuity of the Jewish faith/nation, *Am Yisrael*. But if *Am Yisrael* were their real concern, we should long ago have arrived at a compromise on the "Who is a Jew?" issue with which we could all live happily.

From the bellicose conduct and rhetoric of the spokespersons of both sides of the dispute — those speaking in the name of Halacha as the Jewish people's binding cement and elixir of life, and those speaking for pluralism as the call of the hour — we see that what stirs them is the spirit of triumphalism.

"We are the majority!" cry the pluralists here and abroad.

"We won the election!" proclaim the halachists here and their supporters abroad.

From neither side do we hear much altruistic concern for creative Halacha, for consideration of the kind of pluralism possible for *Am Yisrael*, and for our national health. On both sides we see conduct and bear rhetoric that reflect a distortion of Halacha, a grave misunderstanding or deliberate misinterpretation of the nature of the Jewish faith/nation, an erroneous conception of how pluralism is to be applied to *Am Yisrael*, and an inclination to commit national suicide.

Both sides ought to bear in mind the assertion of the Talmudic Sages Rav and Ulla that knowing how to be silent indicates that one is from a good family (*Kiddushin* 71b).

Halacha — through the Talmud and later authorities — lays down some important principles and rules that its noisy defenders ought to take to heart.

For one thing, we are taught that those who busy themselves with disqualifying and denigrating other Jews thereby indicate that they are of questionable lineage (*Kiddushin* 70a and Maimonides' *Mishne Torah*, Laws of Forbidden Sexual Liaisons, 19:16).

The *Shulchan Aruch* code of Jewish law, that unapproachable bible of our Karaites of the Oral Law (as the late Orthodox rabbi/philosopher/theologian Professor Eliezer Berkovits called colleagues who insisted on the immutability of Halacha), treats the matter in a section we all ought to memorize and apply. It tells us (*Even Ha'ezer*, Laws of Procreation 2:2):

"All [Jewish] families are (*ipso facto*) considered halachically acceptable [for marriage]... But if you see two families... or two individuals... constantly quarreling... or a contentious, arrogant individual... they are suspect [as to their Jewish status] and one should keep one's distance from them, for these traits indicate that they may not be [halachically] kosher Jews."

Furthermore, those who are constantly disqualifying others as *mamzerim* [children of forbidden unions, and therefore not marriageable to halachically kosher Jews] are themselves under suspicion of being a *mamzer*... because people who are in the habit of disqualifying are only projecting their own defects onto others.

"People who are arrogant, cruel and misanthropic and do not treat their fellows with lovingkindness are of questionable lineage... for Jews are supposed to be characterized by modesty, compassion and lovingkindness..."

OUR ULTRA-PLURALISTS seek to implant in Jewish life in general, and in Israel in particular, an American version of pluralism.

Some of them claim to base themselves on Jewish tradition, citing as their authority the talmudic declaration that the halachic decisions reached by Hillel and his school and those reached by his rival, Shammai, and his school are both "the living words of God" (*Ervin* 13b).

However, this statement is not an ancient talmudic provision of 20th-century American pluralism or multiculturalism, an early Jewish statement about "legitimate alternative lifestyles."

What it means is that the Hillelites and Shammaites both arrived at potentially valid conclusions by legitimate halachic means and according to valid halachic principles. However, with a few exceptions, "the law is according to the School of Hillel"; we are to conduct ourselves according to the Hillelite conclusion.

Here the above-mentioned qualities that are supposed to characterize the Jew come into play: The Hillelites prevailed, the Talmud explains, because "they were accommodating and self-effacing, and they would study both their own views and those of the School of Shammai, even stating the Shammaitic views first."

Be that as it may, the *Zohar* tells us that

the Hillelite "lenient" approach prevails only in the This-World, whereas the Shammaitic "strict" approach will be the rule in the Messianic World-to-Come.

OUR KARAITES of the Oral Law ought to have learned by now that they are not nurturing and safeguarding Torah and Halacha with the heaven-scraping fence they are erecting around them. By now they ought to have taken to heart the warning of Rabbi Hiyya bar Abba against building the fence too tall, lest it topple over and destroy the object it is intended to protect (*Bereshit Rabba* 19:3).

Rabbi David Shapiro, one of America's great Orthodox rabbis who lived his last years in Jerusalem, admonished his colleagues: "Certainly Torah has to be safeguarded... But [it] should not be treated as something narrowly defined and sealed... Look to its spirit, its soul... Open it up and elaborate it according to the ideals latent in its statutes and laws... Broaden your perspective and seek ways to make the Torah an instrument for bettering the world and spreading harmony among humankind..." (*Midrash David*, Hebrew).

Rabbi Berkovits wrote that what we today call Orthodoxy "is, in a sense, Halacha in a straitjacket" ("Conversion According to Halacha" — What Is It?, *Judaism* magazine, Fall 1974).

In this article, he analyzed the process whereby what was supposed to be the Oral Law came to be written down and preserved in the Mishna and Talmud, in violation of a precept of the Torah. He noted that "since it was impossible to preserve the entire body of the oral teaching in memory alone," parts of it "had to be put into writing... in light of the vicissitudes, uncertainties, and exiles in the history of the Jewish people in many lands" (see *Gittin* 60a-b).

Hence, "it was an unavoidable violation of the essence of Halacha when the spoken word was forced into the straitjacket of a written mould... Nevertheless, it was a spiritual calamity of the first magnitude..."

"Having had to transform the Oral Torah into a new written one, we have become Karaites of this new [Written Law]..."

He concluded: "As in the past, because it was a time to act for God, shackles had to be placed on the Oral Torah... so now the hour has come when the need to act for God places upon us the responsibility to free the Oral Torah from its shackles... [We need to join much more *Ahavat Yisrael* [love of all Jews] to our *Ahavat Hatorah* [love of Torah], and through] far more love of all Jews to illuminate our love of Torah..."

SHABBAT SHALOM



By SHLOMO RISKIN

Since bread is the staff of life, one could imagine a festival in any number of cultures emphasizing the miracle of wheat turning into bread. But what can one say about a festival that honors a cracker-like substance, hard to chew, exhausting to prepare?

Pessah is also referred to as "the time of our freedom," and extols the virtues of freedom over the ignominy of slavery. But how does a nation — or individuals, for that matter — demonstrate and merit freedom? A study of the contrast between bread and matza reveals significant insights.

If wheat, rye, barley, oats, or spelt ferments and bakes, the product is bread. This is another way of saying that *hametz* is the way of the world. To produce matza, however, an individual must inject himself into the process, interfere with the natural chemical reaction, watch the clock, and pound to remove air bubbles.

To be sure, precisely because interference occurs before the natural fermentation is allowed to take place, the final product will be flat rather than fluffy, hard rather than soft, dry rather than moist. But had the Israelites waited for the conditions to be right, they would never have left Egypt. Sometimes you have to act before you are ready, and accept conditions that are less than perfect; otherwise, you will lose the opportunity altogether.

If the matza is a metaphor for our

own realities, its message is that if we want redemption, we can't let nature take its course. And more often than not, we must step in before we are really ready, even before the situation seems to be ready.

In practical terms, everyone is aware of how often we put off major decisions by saying that we're not ready. Wait until I get my degree, wait until I meet the absolutely 100 percent perfect mate, wait until the children are born, wait until the job offer is exactly what I want, wait until I retire and then...

But who ever guaranteed that the right moment or the right person would arrive precisely when you were perfectly ready? Sometimes it is necessary to stop the fermentation before the 18-minute deadline, and even if you don't get a perfectly baked, crusty pumpernickel at least you will have a filling matza, providing nourishment and even a measure of satisfaction.

Evidence for this comes from the Exodus itself. Had we waited until we were ready for redemption, we'd still be there today, sunk in the 49th degree of impurity. We were slaves, bound to a despotic Pharaoh.

Then came the commandment to prepare the pascal lamb and slaughter it — an act of rebellion against the autocratic ruler and his religious establishment, since the lamb was an Egyptian god. We were hardly ready to confront the all-powerful Egyptian tyrant.

Nevertheless, we began to strike out for the light of freedom even when still in the midst of darkness. "You must eat it with your waist belted, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you

must eat it in haste." (Ex.21:11) "In haste" means before the people were ready — but also before it was too late. In life, timing is everything. So very often the message is: *carpe diem*, seize the day. Get on the plane even if you haven't planned out the trip sufficiently, because if you come a minute late, you may miss your destination altogether.

And that is precisely what the verb *hametz* (leavening) means: to miss the opportunity. So Pessah insists that we have the matza before the natural fermentation has been activated, that we eat the pascal lamb (and nowadays the afikoman or hidden piece of matza) before midnight, or before the natural conclusion of the meal; after all, didn't our ancestors in Egypt begin their celebration way before the logical moment to truly celebrate freedom?

In 1948, many Jews were convinced that Israel should not declare statehood, but should rather wait for events to take their natural course, and the world community would be better prepared to accept us. The reasons were convincing. How could a nation of 600,000 fight a powerful Moslem bloc with jihad on its lips? Where were the weapons we needed? And since we had just suffered the Holocaust, our souls — to say nothing of our bodies — were traumatized.

Even before they had a chance to absorb the language and culture of their new homeland, immigrants would have to shed their civilian clothes for uniforms. Could any timing be more inopportune? But on May 14, 1948, when the British mandate over Palestine concluded, we sensed a window of opportunity. We seized it, despite inevitable

attacks. The State of Israel came into the world like a newly-baked matza, with no time for skyscrapers or fancy economic timetables. We pushed for freedom in 1948, even as we pushed ahead when we left Egypt, even as we jumped into the menacing Red Sea. We took risks for freedom then and now because, despite the difficulties, we had no choice. Had we let nature take its course, we would have disappeared into the oblivion of assimilation.

During the Seder, half of the middle matza is broken and hidden till it is retrieved and eaten at the end of the meal.

We too sit with "half a matza" for most of our lives, waiting to be reunited with the original half at the end. A broken matza may be far from perfect, but as the Kotzker Rebbe said: "The greatest enemy of good is excellent."

If we wait to leave our own Egypt until the situation is perfect, we will probably never leave. That's why matza is also called the bread of faith; to achieve freedom you must believe in freedom and your right to it, you must believe in the possibility of freedom, and you must take risks for freedom, even before you are assured of success.

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THE WEEK THAT WAS

The 'Bibi horror show'



Blaming the media: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi.

By MICHAEL YUDILMAN

All hopes of a quiet and relaxed Hol Hamo'ed were dashed Sunday evening when State Attorney Edna Arbel and Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein presented the bleak report on the Bar-On affair.

The report, after three months of intensive police investigation into the abortive appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general was quickly dismissed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a condemnation of the media, a vindication of himself, and the end of the affair.

But it left a murky mist of ques-

tions and suspicions hovering over Netanyahu and his government. It was not the end of the affair. The report rolled languidly off the top of the holiday and, like a snowball, gathered more debris as it rolled downhill through the post-Pessah press.

En route, it accrued High Court petitions, a movement calling for a state commission of inquiry, demands that Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi be fired, some calls for Netanyahu to resign and, of course, an inevitable whining chorus from Shas about injustice and ethnic persecution.

Netanyahu seized his prerogative to be the first to respond to the

report, hijacking the small screen to launch an attack on the whole world — excluding Aryeh Deri but including the opposition and the media. Channel 1 was honored with the accusation of running a political conspiracy against him.

Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid summarized it as "the Bibi horror show." Other politicians described it less humorously as "a Bolshevik performance," and "a fascist spectacle."

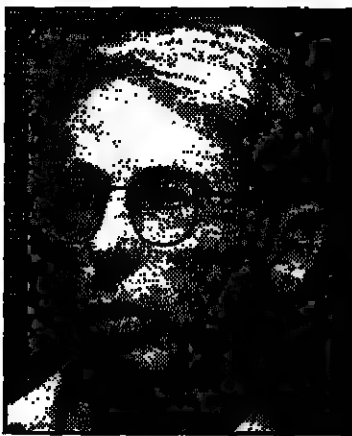
Israel Radio reported towards the end of the week that Arthur Finkelstein, the American adviser for the election campaign, had been called to the rescue once again as the pressure of the approaching report became unbearable.

Viewers could only rub their eyes and wonder, like Chaim Yavin, whether Netanyahu read the same report as the rest of us.

Completely ignoring the report which Arbel and Rubinstein had finished reading live only seconds earlier, Netanyahu zoomed off on a tangent that the media had hyped the whole scandal for political reasons.

"Some media people, especially in Channel 1, have still not accepted the election results and almost every evening try to undermine the government's legitimacy," complained Netanyahu. "They spread false accusations with all the means at their disposal throughout the months of investigation."

Hello — but did anyone else hear Arbel making a point of commending the media for the sterling public service they rendered by exposing the Bar-On affair? Did Netanyahu



Ze'ev B. Begin: No confidence in the PM.

miss her noting that "a considerable part" of the affair exposed by Channel 1 had been "substantiated" and was well rooted in fact?

PUBLIC ENEMY

Shelly Yehimovitz, host of Israel Radio's *Hakol Diburim* ("It's All Talk") show, broadcast sentence-by-sentence what Arbel said and compared it with what Netanyahu said.

It emerged there were not mere discrepancies, but blatant contradictions between the State Attorney's findings and Netanyahu's statements.

Did the prime minister not read the report, wondered Yehimovitz.

The answer was much simpler, suggested Israel Radio's political commentator Yaron Dekel. Netanyahu prepared his speech earlier that day, before the Arbel-

Rubinstein report was completed. Oh dear Netanyahu would never cut it as a reporter if he wrote his dispatch before the story checked out.

But who cares about piffing legalistic details when one has the freedom to leap on camera and scream about the people behind the camera?

That is much more popular. And populist. The very next day, Channel 1's news team was attacked by a Shas mob outside Rabbi Ovadia Yosef's residence. A similar incident happened two nights later at a "support Deri" rally.

From his first day in office Netanyahu has targeted Channel 1. He has accused it of being biased and unreliable.

His people threatened to "settle accounts" with the broadcasters, and the call "death to the media" rose from the recent Likud central committee meeting.

Channel 1 chiefs declined to remain silent.

"Netanyahu is inciting against the free media, instead of learning to live with it. He will have to learn that in a democracy there is a free press, and a free press criticizes the government. That's the rule of the game. His continuing incitement and the extreme undemocratic way in which he reacted worries me. I'm glad even other ministers have criticized him for it," said IBA Director-General Mordechai Kirschbaum.

WHO'S A GOOD BOY?

Listening to his reaction, it was hard to grasp that the prime minister only narrowly escaped being indicted for his government's foul-ups.

The police recommended pressing charges against Netanyahu, Hanegbi, Avigdor Lieberman and MK Aryeh Deri — another "conspiracy" of course.

Three of the state prosecutor's senior criminal law experts recommended similarly. But Arbel and Rubinstein concluded that there was insufficient evidence of criminal acts, saving three of the players, and leaving only Deri to be dropped in boiling oil.

Netanyahu promised ministers who had threatened to quit the cabinet that "if the report's findings were severe" he would learn his lesson and correct his errors. The cabinet will be more accessible and open, he gushed. He would even "consult" (gasp!) with ministers before making decisions.

He would form a committee headed by the prominent waverers — Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky — to advise him on senior appointments.

One by one the ministers who had barked about leaving folded their tails between their legs and slunk back to the kennels mumbling regrets. Dan "the last honest minister" Meridor, mutated enigmatically about not being able to quit even if he wanted to, and not wanting to even if he could.

Sharansky ("even if 10 percent of the Bar-On affair is true, the government cannot continue to exist") has apparently forgotten his basic arithmetic.

Other strident moral voices — Moshe Katsav and Limor Livnat — simply lost their vocal chords. Spring fever, probably.

LAST HEROES

Among the television holiday movies was *The Last of the Great Motion Picture Heroes*, with the Great Terminator himself, Amie Schwarzenegger. Hasta la vista.

Domestically, it seemed to call to mind Ze'ev B. Begin, a solitary beacon fixed on a rock of morality emphasizing the murky ministerial gloom surrounding him by fearlessly slicing through it.

He casually declared he has no confidence in the prime minister and, by the way, suggested Hanegbi should go. "We are dealing with a conspiracy of a bunch of people suspected of criminal acts to bring about the appointment of an attorney-general of their choice, and the plot succeeded," he said, reminding us what it's all about.

According to the report, continued Begin, Hanegbi deceived ministers in presenting Bar-On's candidacy and in the procedures which led to the appointment. (Like his boss, Hanegbi declared the report acquitted him absolutely.)

Begin blasted Netanyahu, Lieberman and Deri for not cooperating with the interrogators, thus preventing them from discovering the truth behind the Bar-On conspiracy. "They did not use the right to be silent nor did they make proper use of the right to speak," said Begin. "That is not proper or appropriate conduct from public figures and, in a state based on the law, it is very difficult to accept."

Meridor's decision to stay in the cabinet Begin dryly interpreted as "an amusing paradox." Meridor apparently kept his rear end in his seat to "preserve the rule of law and public norms."

"From whom?" asked Begin quizzically. "From senior ministers in the cabinet?"

GRAPEVINE

At his own table

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

After all the hullabaloo over his announced intention to join soldiers on a southern IDF base on Seder night, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu celebrated Seder at home with a small family gathering. The four questions were asked by his son Yair, who got a little help from his dad and his proud grandfathers.

THE JOURNALIST most visibly making news as well as reporting it is Ayala Hasson. But she's not the only member of the fourth estate capturing newspaper headlines. Reporter and columnist Orit Galili, whose passionate romance with Meretz MK Dedi Zucker produced a baby boy, has filed a claim for child maintenance against the infant's father. Although Zucker turned up for the *brit* a few weeks back, he hasn't evidenced any further interest in the child, according to Galili, who is asking for NIS 3,000 per month to help her make ends meet.

IN HIS 32 years as a broadcaster, said IBA English news reader Yochanan Elrom while moderating at The Jerusalem Institute of Jewish Law (JIJL)'s bi-annual English Forum, he had often been asked whether it made him more nervous to read the news on television or to stand in front of a crowd. "Well, it's standing in front of a crowd like you," he revealed, "because you can get your hands on me. The way the news has been going lately, there are a lot of people who would like to get their hands on journalists." The audience assured the popular Elrom that he wasn't one of the journalists under threat.

THE TOPIC of the JIJL's forum was *Legal but displeasing*, which caused the Institute's dean, Rabbi Emanuel Quint, to remark that although the topics are picked well in advance, they have suddenly become hot news. Previous subjects included invasion of privacy and battered wives. But if anyone thought that Quint or yeshiva head Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz would talk about Biggie, they were mistaken. Nonetheless, the allusion was there. Quoting from a *Time* magazine article about the White House scandals, which stated that while senior White House officials had not broken the law, their squirming is painful to watch, Quint observed "we've imported a lot of things from America such as Dunkin' Donuts and Ace Hardware. We also seem to have imported the Clinton-Gore syndrome."

PHILOSOPHIZING about the heat, Steinsaltz noted that the Sabbath before Pessah and the Sabbath before Rosh Hashana are the times of year when rabbis exercise their powers of oratory to the full. "The accumulated hot air of several thousand rabbis probably causes the *kamsin*," he theorized.

WHEN TEXTILE designer Gaby Tzur of Kiryat Ono and Tel Aviv-based freelance writer Diana Lerner caught sight of each other at the Jerusalem Post Funds Handicrafts Fair, they fell into each other's arms like long-lost sisters despite a relatively short acquaintance. Lerner, a native New Yorker, goes home for a working holiday every winter and during her last visit bumped into Tzur, who had seen her at fashion shows here, but had never really spoken to her. But a familiar face has a particular pull in a big lonely city, so Tzur took her courage in her hands and asked Lerner, "Don't I know you from Israel?" The affirmative reply led to an instant friendship and the two spent a lot of time in each other's company in the Big Apple. Now



Jerry Seinfeld (UPPA)

they're going to do the same here.

AMONG THOSE seated at the Seder table of British Ohm Society official Maurice Singer and his wife Renee, the secretary of the Foreign Press Association, were British Consul General John White and his wife Judith. Some of the conversation focused on President Ezer Weizman's highly successful state visit to England. Whereupon someone asked when Israelis could expect to greet Queen Elizabeth. White's opinion was that there would not be an official royal visit until such time as the Jerusalem issue is resolved. To which the Singers' son Rafi retorted: "There mightn't be a monarchy by then."

PLANNING A September wedding is Adi Strauss, whose first foray into marriage ended in divorce. Adi, one of the heirs to the Strauss dairy and food empire, was previously wed to television news reporter Nicola Strauss, who converted to Judaism so that they could have a proper religious ceremony. The highlight of their match-making, publicized wedding reception, orchestrated by papa Michael Strauss, was a huge floating ice-cream cake which took up a large section of the family swimming pool. Time will tell whether the festivities will be as sumptuous the second time around. The second Mrs. Strauss, who has just completed her medical studies, will not have to convert. She's an Israeli who answers to the name of Tzipi.

FOR HIS bar mitzva 12 years ago, Guy Zvili, son of Labor MK Nissim Zvili, received a horse, as a result of which, he's been crazy about horses ever since. Now he's spreading horse fever a little further afield. This week he introduced Israel's first professional American-style rodeo to an enthu-



Ruth Gonzales (Yael Haimovitch)

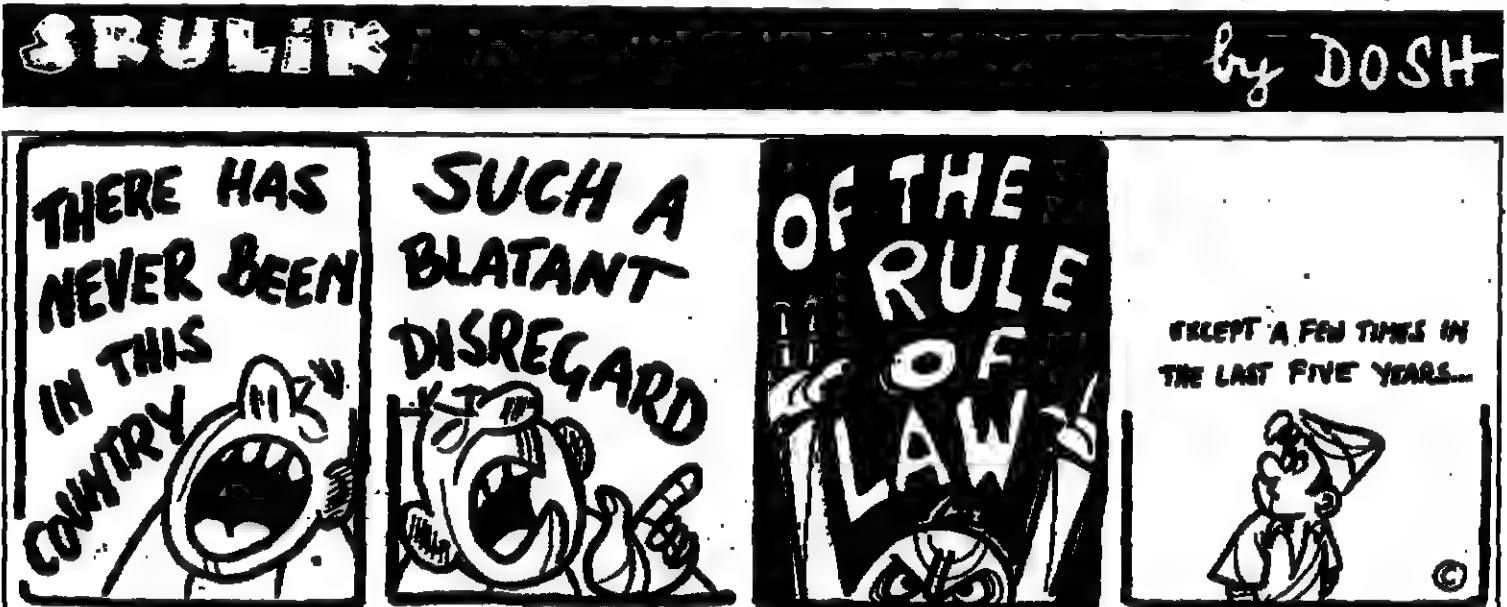
siaic crowd of spectators who gathered at Moshav Ein Vered. HER STINT as a hostess on *Wheel of Fortune* made Ruth Gonzales an instant celebrity. Her television appearances were quickly followed by modeling gigs and then she disappeared temporarily to have a baby. After six months of motherhood, she's back in the public eye with a one-woman show aptly titled *Speedy Gonzales*. Dressed in an outfit specially created by designer Yuval Caspin, Gonzales, in a dynamic song-and-dance routine, is out to prove that she's more than just a pretty face.

BANKS ARE increasingly turning towards celebrities and their offspring to promote their interests. Bank Leumi has been featuring model and television personality Yael Abecassis for its First Direct banking program, but the First International Bank has gone one better with its campaign for second-generation profit shares.

Among the 25 participants, who are all offspring of legal eagles and captains of industry, are final-year high-school student Sharon Peled, 17, the daughter of Israel Electric Corporation general manager and former police chief Rafi Peled; part-owner of an Italian restaurant and former El Al steward Adi Peri, 26, who is the son of Celcom president and former head of General Security Services Ya'acov Peri; business-management student Anat Borowitz, 25, daughter of Arkia managing director Israel Borowitz; newly inducted soldier Ido Padan, 18, son of prestige jewelry and watch retailer Ben Padan; Yonatan Ben-Gal, 22, proprietor of Home Gym which imports fitness equipment for home use, son of Israel Aircraft Industries chairman Yama Ben-Gal; public-relations accounts executive Karen Gillerman-Harel, 27, whose father Danny Gillerman is the president of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce; master's degree in business management student Guy Alkrovi, 28 whose father is nationwide property developer Alfred Alkrovi; Eilat Kaul, 21, a former IDF education officer who has just completed her army service and is the daughter of Claf managing director Yitzhak Kaul; third-generation lawyer Yairiv Caspi, 27, who is the son of distinguished attorney Ram Caspi, plus a whole bunch of twenty-something yuppie-whose parents are part of the celebrity circuit.

SELF-EXILED musician Matti Caspi, who for the past several years has been living in Los Angeles, was amongst the guests attending the Seder of Israeli Consul Ido Aharoni, who invited members of LA's diplomatic community to celebrate the Festival of Freedom. Caspi and his wife Rachel are working on a new bilingual disc which will come out in Hebrew and Portuguese.

PARTING OF the ways. Reports from the US indicate that Jerry Seinfeld and Shoshana Levenstein have split up once again. The couple, who have been an item for the past five years, decided in February to change their relationship from romantic to platonic. Then they gave romance another brief whirl, but it didn't work, so Seinfeld, 42, and Levenstein, 21, are back to being platonic.



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

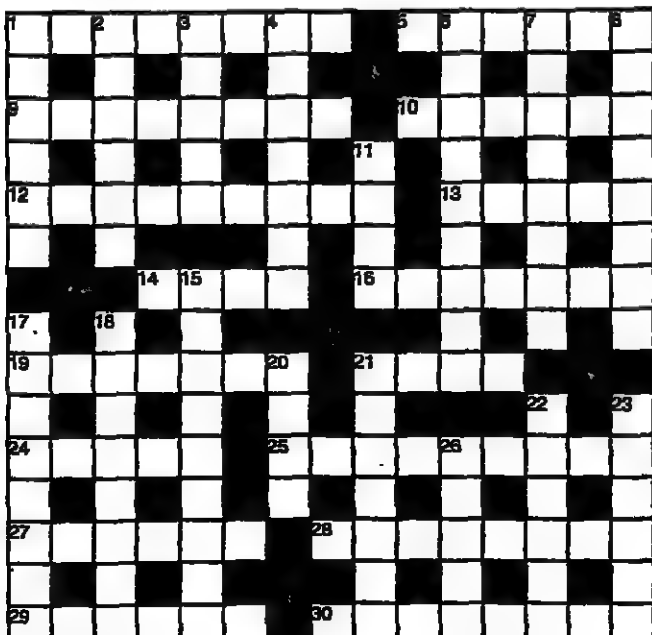
ACROSS

- 1 Not a bad match, but it's rightly ridiculed (4,4)
- 5 Religious belief set him apart (6)
- 9 Common cleric constantly in pain (6)
- 10 French monk goes to Prince William's school (6)
- 12 Alert snooker players fix their gaze there (2,3,4)
- 13 Typical finishing stroke (5)
- 14 A bishop having to live in a French monastery (4)
- 16 Advocates making UNESCO take money (7)
- 19 Many a large, fat duck (7)
- 21 It offers food containing calcium and iron (4)
- 24 Small vegetable of glossy appearance (6)

- 25 Rock a shade of yellowish green (9)
- 27 Egghead in unsuitable location gets huffed (2,1,3)
- 28 Adores to dine on a small settee (4-4)
- 29 Company demands time to put in estimate (6)
- 30 In a way, fresh water is the first of essentials (2,2,4)

DOWN

- 1 Wrinkle familiar to anti-mink-farm protesters? (6)
- 2 Formally ask popular sextet to take note (6)
- 3 Maybe a feature some Bangor geographers study (5)
- 4 Order fellow worker to come round also (7)



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ACROSS: 1 Steppes, 4 Child, 5 Crane, 9 Fielder, 10 Baseline, 11 Bold, 12 Nip, 14 Odds, 18 Load, 19 Saw, 21 Apex, 23 Amateurs, 25 Abridge, 28 Image, 27 Title, 28 Egress.
DOWN: 1 Secures, 2 Elapsed, 3 Fearless, 4 Code, 5 Igloo, 6 Deride, 7 Often, 13 Pleasing, 16 Average, 17 Vacant, 19 Wager, 20 Orders, 22 Egrot, 24 Edge.

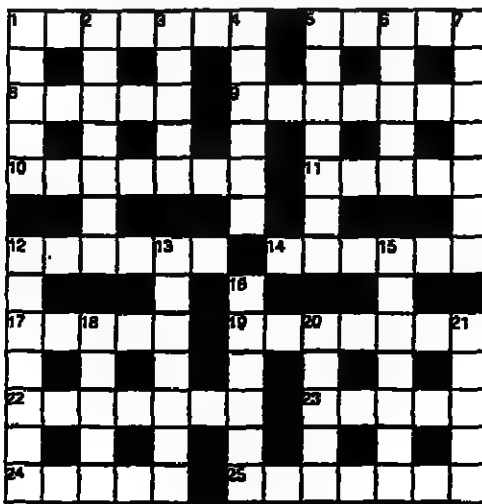
QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Counting (7)
- 5 Evening dress (5)
- 8 Type of onces (6)
- 9 W. Indian knife (7)
- 10 Underground call (7)
- 11 Church tax (5)
- 12 Prolific (6)
- 14 Turn to bone (6)
- 17 Abyss (6)
- 19 Used a plectrum (7)
- 22 Deadlock (7)
- 23 Distinctive expression (6)
- 24 Wants (5)
- 25 Nine-sided figure (7)

DOWN

- 1 Domesticated (5)
- 2 Tare (7)
- 3 Senseless (5)
- 4 The Twine (6)
- 5 Roman historian (7)
- 6 Sluggish (5)
- 7 Theatre hangings (7)
- 12 Dissident group (7)
- 13 Retribution (7)
- 15 Intimation (7)
- 16 Ill temper (6)
- 18 Plentiful (5)
- 20 Confederation (5)
- 21 Devil (5)



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Friday,
April 25, 1997

BUSINESS & FINANCE

13

HIGH TECH

in brief

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

'Wall Street Journal' to use BackWeb software

BackWeb of Jerusalem has supplied *The Wall Street Journal* with its software, which will allow the paper to broadcast selected new items over the Internet. Using BackWeb's technology, the *Journal's* interactive Internet newspaper edition is now offering a new service called "Personal Journal News Alert" which automatically supplies news items to the subscriber according to his personal wish list.

Electric Fuel inks pact with Vattenfall AB

Electric Fuel, a Har Hotzvim-based maker of a zinc air battery designed to fuel commercial vehicles, has signed an agreement with Swedish Vattenfall AB that will allow the company to build the first zinc air battery regeneration and refueling plant. Lehman Brothers recently reiterated Electric Fuel's V2 ranking, saying that the deal demonstrates that the zinc air battery has business opportunities in the commercial fleet market. The investment bank also said that Electric Fuel's shares are trading below their potential.

Gemini raises \$3.1m. for Silicon Value

Genial Capital Fund Management of Herzliya has raised \$3.1m. for Silicon Value, which develops and produces intricate silicon components for the semiconductor market. The company has finished its research and development and is currently in the mass production and marketing stage. Gemini, which manages a \$36m. fund, invested \$2.1m. in the placement.

Gezemet now serves 04 region

Gezemet, the Internet company of Kibbutz Gezer, is now serving the 04 area code region in conjunction with Microdan. Gezemet, which has been operating in the 08 area for the past year, provides an unlimited number of hours on the Internet for \$24 per month.

Golan Electronics wins deal in the Philippines

Golan Electronics has won a \$1.5m. deal to supply a cellular phone network on two islands in the Philippines. The deal has the potential to reach \$6m. in later stages. Golan Electronics, a subsidiary of Tadiran Communications, develops and manufactures small- and medium-sized cellular communication systems.

RAD Data Communications opens in Beijing

RAD Data Communications has announced the opening of its second Asian Pacific regional bureau, in Beijing. China is the second largest market for RAD, which designs and markets a range of solutions for local and wide area networks. The RAD China office will provide marketing and technical support to RAD distributors in the country and will assess and develop other possibilities for technical cooperation and exchange in the country.

Tadiran Telecommunications to reorganize

Tadiran Telecommunications has announced the consolidation of its business systems and access systems divisions. The company said that the change is designed to make the company's marketing strategy more efficient. Tadiran Telecommunications develops products for a variety of telecommunications fields, including digital public switching technologies, access and transport equipment, private exchanges and wireless access systems. The company exports to a number of countries around the world.

Weizmann invents world's fastest semiconductor

The Weizmann Institute's Center for Submicron Research has developed the purest semiconductor in the world. Made from gallium arsenide, the semiconductor allows particles to travel record distances without collision. Previously, Bell Labs of the US held the record.

Gabbai Committee suggests abolishing property tax

By DAVID HARRIS

Abolition of property tax and its replacement by a business property sales tax are the main recommendations of the Gabbai Committee, set up by Deputy Finance Minister David Magen.

The committee, under the chairmanship of former Income Tax commissioner Yoram Gabbai, will publish its proposals on Wednesday.

The group has been working since December on ways of reforming property tax. Its report will suggest a variety of alternatives, including altering tax levels, but will propose abolishing the tax as the best option.

The annual property tax would be replaced by

a sales tax at up to 2.5 percent on business property, including buildings and land.

During the committee's deliberations, it was felt the direct and consumption tax burdens are generally too high, therefore taxation on the basis of property must be retained.

Property tax, which is not paid on agricultural land, is currently 2.5%.

The proposal to rethink the collection of property tax comes after a 32% drop in revenues between December and February, compared with the same period a year earlier. This has been one of the main contributors to the country's budget deficit, which surpassed NIS 1 billion in the first quarter of the year.

The committee's main task has been to examine the perceived unfairness in the tax. It is argued that while the original aim of the tax was to encourage land sales by private bodies and individuals and to encourage speedy planning and construction, in practice, many landowners do not build on their property, but are still required to pay the annual property tax.

The Finance Ministry has in recent months put on hold discussions on a comprehensive package of tax reforms. The prime minister's economics adviser Moshe Leon recently urged the implementation of reforms, possibly to include a 1% increase in VAT to be offset by reductions in other non-direct taxes.

Central bank interest rates remain unchanged

By DAVID HARRIS

There will be no change in the Bank of Israel's key lending rate next month, Governor Jacob Frenkel announced yesterday. This leaves the rate at 13.9 percent, with the aggregate cut since August holding at 3.1%. May will be the second consecutive month with no change in the rate.

Since August, the central bank has not reduced interest rates by more than 1% in any month.

The decision follows a week of negotiations before Pessah, among Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Frenkel, during which the three were unable to reach a conclusion on how to put the economy back on track and in particular how to rein in the budget deficit.

While all three have reportedly agreed there has to be a public expenditure cut of some NIS 1 billion, Frenkel is refusing to bow to pressure from the other two to implement a substantial cut in interest rates.

Frenkel was even less amenable to their requests after the publication of the March Consumer Price Index increase of 1%, particularly in property and fruits and vegetables. Inflation in the first quarter was running at an annual rate of 11%, higher than the government target of 7% to 10% for 1997.

1996 inflation was 10.6%. The bank argues its tight monetary policy led to a considerable reduction in the inflation rate in the latter half of last year. In June, the annual rate was some 15%, but by December it was down to 7%.

Frenkel has made it clear on numerous occasions that monetary policy should be used to achieve the government's inflationary targets, leaving the fiscal means available for tackling the budget deficit.

In a statement, the central bank said the decision not to change the rate was based on a variety of developments and the need to meet the inflation target, not just this year, but also the government 2001 target of 4% to 5%.

Meanwhile, the industrialists say the continued high interest rates are hampering export growth and stifling the economy.

Meridor and former Finance Ministry director-general David Brodet have said 1997 growth will be less than 3%.

However, Brodet maintains that the required budget cut 5% growth could be restored as early as next year.

Manufacturers Association president Dan Propert last night called for an immediate 1% cut in interest rates to be followed by a further 1.5% to 2% cut.

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange closed before the bank's late afternoon announcement, with the Maco Index rising some 0.33% to end the week at 262.36.

The dollar ended the day at NIS 3.4020, up some NIS 0.0110 on yesterday, equalling the high set last Thursday.



Renault worker protest heats up

Workers from the doomed Renault plant at Vilvorde, near Brussels, force their way into the town hall in Lille, France yesterday. Violence erupted when around 150 protesters, opposed to the French company's plan to close the plant, were told Lille Mayor Pierre Mauroy was currently in Paris. Riot police were called in to remove the demonstrators.

France imposes 1998 spending freeze

PARIS (Reuters) - France's government

ordered a public spending freeze for 1998 yesterday as the opposition Socialists sought to woo voters ahead of a snap parliamentary election next month with a pledge of no new taxes.

Prime Minister Alain Juppe's office confirmed that ministers had been told to hold 1998 state spending unchanged in nominal terms for the second successive year, meaning a cut of more than one percent in real terms.

But it sought to offset the impression of austerity by trumpeting signs of an economic upturn ahead of the May 25-June 1 election to the National Assembly, likely to be dominated by the issues of unemployment, taxes

and purchasing power.

"Growth is taking off again," Budget Minister Alain Lamassouire said, pointing to what he called robust industrial production figures. He said France might make more tax cuts than planned if economic growth exceeded forecasts for 1997.

The Socialists accused the center-right coalition of trying to secure reelection before imposing draconian new austerity measures to help qualify for a single European currency.

"We will not raise taxes," Aubry, a member of the Socialist leadership, said in an RTL radio interview. The Socialists say they favor the single currency, but not at the price of a further bout of austerity.

"We will simply make a better share-out between [the tax burden on] income from capital and income from salaries, we will relaunch consumer spending and we will introduce a new model of development," she said.

Juppe and Socialist leader Lionel Jospin were to hold their first public rallies later yesterday in what is likely to be a short but bruising campaign after President Jacques Chirac risked his political career by dissolving parliament on Monday.

Aubry said the prime minister was bowing to demands for strict austerity to meet the Maastricht Treaty budget criteria for a single European currency - a deficit of less than 3% of gross domestic

product.

Aubry, daughter of former European Commission president Jacques Delors who was an architect of the treaty, said the 3% target "is not the Bible...the treaty itself says that the trend must be taken into account."

Finance Minister Jean Arthuis denied media reports that the budget faced a slippage because of a tax revenue shortfall.

"Nothing points to slippage in the state budget," he told the business daily *Les Echos*.

In their first meetings with ordinary voters since the campaign kicked off, Juppe was to travel to the rough and tumble Mediterranean port of Marseille, while Jospin planned to tour several troubled outer Paris suburbs.

Surveys show voters' concerns are dominated by unemployment, at a post-war record of 12.6%.

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book

Menachem Mendel Schneerson

Toward a Meaningful Life

Yankees rout Brewers; Indians down Red Sox

NEW YORK (AP) — Tino Martinez drove in five runs as the New York Yankees stretched a winning streak to three for the first time this season, beating the Milwaukee Brewers 10-5 Wednesday.

Kenny Rogers (2-1) won despite allowing five runs and six hits in six innings with four strikeouts and six walks. Graeme Lloyd pitched 1 2-3 innings for his first save since 1995.

Milwaukee, which lost its fourth straight, rallied from a 5-0 deficit to tie the score before the Yankees knocked out starter Ben McDonald (2-2) during a four-run sixth.

Indians 11, Red Sox 7
In Cleveland, Jack McDowell got a win in the first regular-season relief appearance of his career, and Cleveland rallied from a 5-0 deficit.

McDowell (1-2), banished to the bullpen because of 12.51 ERA in three starts, was brilliant in four scoreless innings, allowing two hits, striking out four and walking two.

Cleveland got two runs each in the fourth and sixth, then took a 9-5 lead in the seventh. Matt Williams, in a 3-for-18 slump, drove in the tying run with a slow-rolling single down the third-base

line, and Vaughn Eshelman's wild pitch allowed in the go-ahead run. Rick Trillick (2-4) gave up two runs on three hits in one inning.

White Sox 11, Orioles 9
In Baltimore, the Chicago White Sox blew a seven-run lead, then got a sacrifice fly from Lyle Mouton in the 10th inning to hand the Baltimore Orioles their first home loss of the season.

Eric Davis' ninth career grand slam tied the game in the seventh inning for the Orioles, who rallied from a 9-2 deficit.

Davis' six RBIs matched a career high, last reached in 1989. Tony Phillips opened the Chicago 10th with a single off Armando Benitez (0-2). After a walk to Frank Thomas and a groundout by Albert Belle, Harold Baines was walked intentionally to load the bases. Mouton lifted a fly ball to left that easily scored Phillips, and a single by Dave Martinez made it 11-9.

Mouton and Martinez both homered to help the White Sox win for only the third time in 11 games. Thomas went 4-for-5 with a walk.

Cal Ripken had two RBIs for the Orioles, striving to go 8-0 at home for the first time in franchise history.

Tony Castillo (2-2) worked the

ninth and Roberto Hernandez got three outs for his third save.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Giants 4, Braves 3

In San Francisco, Barry Bonds' slicing popout turned into a three-run inside-the-park homer and Bill Mueller singled in the winning run in the ninth, as the San Francisco Giants beat the Atlanta Braves 4-3 Wednesday.

Ryan Klesko hit a two-run homer as the Braves scored three in the seventh to tie the game, but the Giants won for the 10th time in 11 games by scoring off Alan Embree (1-1) in the ninth.

Doug Henry (2-0) got pitched the ninth for the Giants, 7-1 in one-run games this season.

Rockies 7, Marlins 3
In Denver, Kevin Brown (2-1) gave up five runs on 10 hits in 5 1-3 innings — his shortest outing since last May 28 — as his ERA ballooned from 0.96 to 2.16.

Walt Weiss had two hits for the Rockies, including a two-run triple that broke a sixth-inning tie. Eric Young added four hits. Jamey Wright (3-1) had two hits and two RBIs, and gave up three runs and 10 hits in six innings. Bruce Ruffin got four outs for his third save.

Mets 10, Reds 2

In New York, Todd Hundley hit

a pair of two-run homers and drove in five runs.

Mark Clark (2-1) allowed both runs and seven hits in seven innings, sending Cincinnati to its fourth consecutive loss, its ninth loss on a 10-game road trip.

John Olerud doubled twice and had two RBIs for the Mets, who outlast Cincinnati 14-7. Reds starter Mike Morgan (0-2) gave up six runs and seven hits in three innings.

Expos 4, Cubs 3

In Montreal, Henry Rodriguez

went 3-for-4 and doubled off Terry Mulholland (0-3) to break a fifth-inning tie as Montreal rallied from a 3-0 deficit and won its fourth straight.

Chicago fell to 2-16 and has lost two straight following consecutive wins against the New York Mets.

Jim Bullinger (1-3), signed as a free agent in the offseason after being cast off by the Cubs, allowed three runs and five hits in six innings. Lee Smith pitched the ninth for his second save, the 475th of his career.

American League				
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	12	5	.708	-
Boston	10	9	.526	3
Toronto	9	9	.500	3 1/2
New York	10	11	.476	4
Detroit	9	12	.429	5
Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	11	9	.550	-
Milwaukee	8	6	.500	1
Cleveland	9	10	.474	1 1/2
Kansas City	8	10	.444	2
Chicago	6	14	.300	5
West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	13	8	.619	-
Texas	9	8	.529	2
Oakland	10	10	.500	2 1/2
Anaheim	9	10	.474	3

Wednesday's NL games: NY Mets 10, Cincinnati 7; Colorado 7, Florida 3; San Francisco 4, Atlanta 3; Pittsburgh 3, Philadelphia 2; Montreal 4, Chicago Cubs 3; Los Angeles 2, St. Louis 1; Houston 11, San Diego 7.

Wednesday's AL games: Cleveland 11, Boston 7; NY Yankees 10, Milwaukee 5; Texas 2, Detroit 1; Chicago White Sox 11, Baltimore 9, 10 innings; Oakland 6, Minnesota 5; Anaheim 5, Toronto 4, 10 innings; Kansas City 13, Seattle 10.



TEARFUL WIN — Mario Lemieux leaves the ice in tears after the Penguins' 4-1 win over Philadelphia on Wednesday night.

Gretzky nets 3 goals to lead Rangers past Panthers

Penguins win, Lemieux's career still alive

NEW YORK (AP) — Wayne Gretzky's natural hat trick led the New York Rangers to a 3-2 victory over the Florida Panthers on Wednesday night.

Gretzky scored three times in a span of 6:23 in the second period for his 58th career hat trick, but first with New York.

The win gives the Rangers a 3-1 lead in the best-of-7 Eastern Conference first-round series, pushing the defending Eastern Conference champions to the brink of elimination.

The series returns to Miami for Game 5 tonight.

Penguins 4, Flyers 1

In Pittsburgh, the Penguins refused to lose what might be Mario Lemieux's last home game, scoring two shorthanded goals in the first period to beat Philadelphia

4-1 Wednesday night and stay alive in the NHL playoffs.

Lemieux made for a dramatic finish by scoring on a breakaway with 1:04 remaining, delaying the game as Penguins fans showered the ice with caps.

Lemieux, a three-time NHL MVP, will retire after the playoffs. The Penguins avoided their first playoff sweep since Lemieux joined them in the 1984-85 season. The Penguins last were swept by Boston in 1979.

The Flyers will try to finish off the Penguins in Game 5 tomorrow in Philadelphia. The Penguins are 0-14-1 in their last 15 road games.

Wednesday's NHL first round playoff games (best-of-7): Pittsburgh 4, Philadelphia 1; Philadelphia leads series 3-1; New York 3, Florida 2; New York leads series 3-1; Ottawa 1, Buffalo 0, GT, series tied 2-2.



OUT OF REACH — Baltimore second baseman Roberto Alomar dives in vain for a base hit off the bat of Chicago's Ozzie Guillen on Wednesday. Chicago won 11-9.

Zoeller withdraws from PGA event over Woods controversy

GREENSBORO, NC (AP) — Choking back tears, Fuzzy Zoeller withdrew from this week's PGA tournament, saying he wanted to apologize personally to Tiger Woods for racially insensitive remarks he made about the Masters champion.

"I am the one who screwed up and I will pay the price," Zoeller said Wednesday in pulling out of the Greater Greensboro Chrysler Classic.

The surprising move came one day after Kmart severed its ties

with Zoeller because of his remarks.

Zoeller, 45, said he couldn't continue playing competitive golf until talking with the 21-year-old Woods, who on April 13 became the first black to win a major.

"I am trying to reach him and he's a very hard man to get ahold of," Zoeller said.

For the third straight day, Zoeller read a statement apologizing for calling Woods "that little boy" and urging him not to request fried chicken and collard greens at

the Champions Dinner when he returns to Augusta National next year.

Zoeller then shocked the crowd of reporters by withdrawing from the tournament.

"I started this, and I feel strongly that I have to make things right with Tiger first before anything else," he said.

"I also regret the distraction this has caused the world of golf. What I said is distracting people at this tournament. And that's not fair to the other people on this

course trying to play this tournament," Zoeller refused to answer questions and left Forest Oaks Country Club with reporters trailing.

On Tuesday night, the Greensboro Jaycees, the tournament's organizers, honored Zoeller for his loyalty to the event.

The popular Zoeller, himself a Masters champion in 1979, had played here 21 straight years — including while Kmart was the tourney's title sponsor from 1988-

95. Only the legendary Sam Snead played in more with 34 appearances.

PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said in a statement that Zoeller "recognizes that the comments he made at Augusta were inappropriate, unacceptable and deeply offensive to a great many people."

"By making this additional statement, I think he demonstrated how deep his concerns are regarding the inappropriateness of these comments," Finchem said.

Little Robert has that Tiger Woods look at age 4

WARLEY, England (AP) — He can drive the ball up to 140 yards and make par shots at 345-yard holes.

That's not exactly Tiger Woods yet. But little Robert Aldred is just 4 years old.

Robert, who turned 4 three weeks ago, has become an honorary member of Watley, a municipal golf club near Birmingham after stunning the club go with the length of his drives, his consistently accurate chips from off the greens and his putting ability.

"At first I thought it was luck, but he does it far too often for it to be luck," said his father, Bob Aldred, also an amateur player who plays off 15.

"His drives are unbelievable — he can hit them 80-90 yards every time."

"He started off when he was 18 months old. We bought him a metal shovel with a plastic head from Toys R Us and some plastic balls. Unfortunately, he found one of my real golf balls and disintegrated the clubhead. Aldred said he and his son spend about two hours a day practicing and is rarely without a golf club in his hand.

"That was a similar routine for Masters champion Woods, whose father had encouraged him to hit a ball before he could walk."

"After seeing what he could do as an 18-month-old, I decided to get some of my own clubs on sale for him," Aldred said.

Aldred said he got today's headline was watching balls all over the place. "The problem is that little Robert says he doesn't want to be like Tiger Woods. He wants to play soccer for Aston Villa."

Cruyff celebrates 50th birthday in blaze of publicity

AMSTERDAM (AP) — With the kind of reverence normally reserved for their royal family, the Dutch will today celebrate the 50th birthday of soccer great Johan Cruyff.

Cruyff rejected the offer of a glittering birthday bash at one of Amsterdam's top theaters in favor of a quiet family affair. But the media is cashing in with special supplements and a two-hour tribute show on national television to one of the greatest players the game has ever seen.

Ajax, the club which spotted his talents before he was a teenager, unveiled a portrait two weeks ago at its Arena stadium and Minister of Culture Aad Nuis was moved to pen an ode to Cruyff in a literary magazine devoted to Dutch soccer's most famous son.

Cruyff's beguiling ball control and instinctive and incisive goalscoring dazzled a generation of defenders. His style of play added a new dimension to the game and turned the Netherlands' national team into one of the best in the world.

A star for Ajax and Spanish soccer giant Barcelona, he made a huge impact on the game and amazed teammates and opponents with his soccer genius.

In one Dutch league match for Ajax, aged just 20, Cruyff scored six goals, three in each half. The unlucky goalkeeper, Gerrit Voors, will never forget that November day in 1970.

"If it had been anyone else it would have been terrible, but with Cruyff, it was a sort of negative honor," he said in a magazine interview published this week.

Cruyff debuted in Ajax's first team at the age of 17. He had grown up, the son of a greengrocer, in a workers' neighborhood in the shadow of Ajax's old De Meer stadium.

His credits as player and coach are unlikely to be bettered by another Dutchman, even by stars such as Ruud Gullit and Marco van Basten.

Cruyff played on the legendary Ajax team of the early 1970s which won the European Cup three times in a row from 1971-1973.

He moved to Barcelona in August 1973.

With Ajax, Cruyff won eight national titles. In his first season at Barcelona, he led the Catalan



DUTCH SUPERHERO — Johan Cruyff has always been the focus of attention no matter where he goes.

side to their first Spanish league title since 1960.

He was named European Footballer of the Year three times in the early 1970s and was the star of the 1974 World Cup finals in Germany in which the Dutch were runners-up.

From Spain, Cruyff's playing career took him to the U.S., where he played for three seasons in the North American Soccer League for the Los Angeles Aztecs and Washington Diplomats.

He ended his playing days back in the Netherlands with two seasons at Ajax and a farewell year at arch rival Feyenoord Rotterdam, where he transferred after being dropped by Ajax following a dispute with the club's chairman.

Cruyff returned to Spain in the 1990s as manager of Barcelona, guiding the club to four consecutive Spanish league titles from 1991 to 1994 and the European Champions Cup in 1992.

In the Netherlands, Cruyff is not only remembered for his soccer. In a nation of nonconformists, his frequent run-ins with authorities earned him almost total adulation.

"It's his vision," said Ajax fan Joergen Bartels when asked what was special about Cruyff. "He saw things no other players saw. That was his genius. That and his rebelliousness."

In the 1974 World Cup finals, while the Dutch team wore Adidas-made shirts emblazoned with the manufacturer's trademark — three stripes, Cruyff — under contract to another sportswear company — wore a shirt with just two stripes.

At the end of his playing career, Cruyff had amassed just 48 international appearances but scored a prolific 33 goals.

Cruyff's name will forever be linked with the talent-packed Dutch side that lost the 1974 World Cup final 2-1 to host Germany on a disputed penalty.

The "total football" of that Dutch side and Cruyff's Ajax team in the early 1970s won plaudits around the world. Cruyff this week described those teams' attacking style as "controlled, organized chaos." Cruyff is currently in semi-retirement, having been fired as Barcelona manager following a personality clash with club chairman Jose Luis Nunez.

Despite his success as coach with Ajax and Barcelona, disputes with soccer authorities here prevented him managing the Dutch national team.

Among his countless achievements, Cruyff lists one of his proudest moments in soccer as watching his son Jordi make his international debut last year and then play on the Dutch team at Euro '96 in England.

Cruyff senior's future in the game he graced for so many years is less certain.

"Maybe 50 is the perfect time of life to say goodbye to the game," he said in a rare magazine interview this week.



DELIGHT - Barcelona's Josep Guardiola celebrates after scoring his side's second goal against Fiorentina last night.

Barca reach Cup Winners' Cup final

PSG hold on for 3-2 aggregate win over Liverpool

FLORENCE (Reuter) - Three-time winners Barcelona reached the European Cup Winners' Cup final last night after a stormy 2-0 win over Fiorentina whose fans repeatedly threw objects at the Spanish players. They will meet Paris St. Germain who lost 2-0 against Liverpool at Anfield but nevertheless held on for a 3-2 aggregate win.

Both Barcelona and Fiorentina finished with 10 men, with Fiorentina's Brazilian-born striker Luis Oliveira sent off in the 48th minute for his second bookable offence and Barcelona's Miguel Angel Nadal shown the red card in the 83rd for dangerous play.

Fernando Couto headed the first goal in the 30th minute following a free kick while Josep Guardiola made it 2-0 five minutes later by driving home a direct free kick.

Until the goals the match had been spirited but relatively clean. After them it turned ugly.

Other than keeping Brazilian Ronaldo off the scoresheet, there was little for Fiorentina, winners of the inaugural cup in 1961, to be proud of in a tie Barcelona effectively killed off in the first half en route to a 3-1 aggregate win.

Two Barcelona players were apparently hit by objects thrown from the crowd in either half. Defender Sergi Barjuan needed medical assistance in the 36th minute and Ivan de La Pena was hit in the 65th when taking a throw-in.

Fiorentina fans were warned four times that if they continued to hurl coins and bottles the match would be suspended. The referee twice consulted a UEFA official on the touchline but play continued on both occasions.

In Liverpool, holders Paris Saint Germain were beaten 2-0 by Liverpool in their European Cup Winners Cup semifinal second leg at Anfield last night but survived to clinch a place in the final 3-2 on aggregate.

Liverpool, playing with unrelenting pace and passion in contrast to their poor display in the first leg, scored after 12 minutes when Robbie Fowler fired home with an angled left-foot volley and added a second after 79 minutes when Mark Wright headed powerfully home from a corner.

But despite almost non-stop attacking by the English side, whose manager Roy Evans dropped skipper John Barnes for the first time in almost a decade, the French side held out.

Stan Collymore, Jamie Redknapp and Stig Inge Bjornebye all went close to reducing the deficit for Liverpool in the first half, and although Liverpool did not create as many chances in the second, they were camped in PSG's half of the field virtually throughout the second period.

PSG rarely created a scoring chance, their most clear-cut opportunity coming in the second minute when Patrice Loko broke through the defence and shot narrowly wide from an acute angle.

Olympiakos lifts European title at last

ROME (Reuter) - Olympiakos made it third time lucky when it won the European club basketball championship last night, beating Barcelona 73-58 in the final.

The Greek side, losing finalists in 1994 and 1995, controlled much of the second half and deserved their victory, the most famous in its history.

But it was more sadness for Barcelona, beaten finalists in 1996 and now without anything to show from six Final Four appearances in the last nine years.

Olympiakos, inspired as they had been in Tuesday's semifinals against Ljubljana by ex-Los Angeles Lakers playmaker David Rivers, overcame a slow start to thoroughly earn the crown.

After seven minutes Olympiakos only had two points on the board but with Rivers in top form, scoring 14 in the first half alone, they went into the break with a 31-29 advantage.

In the second half it took Barcelona four minutes to add to its halftime tally as it slipped to 38-29 and when Olympiakos stretched into a double figure lead at 44-33, courtesy of some Rivers magic, it was fairly clear where the title was bound.

Rivers led the scoring with 26 to go with the magnificent 28 he scored in the semifinal.

The event has been a tour de force for the 30-year-old and as he held the trophy afterwards he was lifted aloft by his team mates.

Dragan Tarlac, steady with his freethrows, contributed a valuable 11 points to ensure Olympiakos fans and much of Greece could go off and celebrate in style.

Slovenian champions Olympia Ljubljana took third place with an 86-79 win over Villeurbanne of France.

Hap. J'lem advances to finals

Earns berth in Euro League

By RICHARD ZAACKS

Hapoel Jerusalem defeated Maccabi Ra'anana 75-63 in the capital last night to set up a rematch of last season's championship series against Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Jerusalem also earned a spot in the Euro League next season, which guarantees Hapoel at least 16 games against the continent's elite. Maccabi Tel Aviv has Israel's other spot in European basketball's most prestigious tournament.

Ra'anana, completing its first season in the National League in third place, will participate in the Euro Cup next season, as will Hapoel Eilat.

Ra'anana, which lost the first two games of the semifinal series before defeating Jerusalem on Sunday, gave Hapoel a real battle on its home court at Malha.

But Tomer Steinhauser, who has led Ra'anana to its storied season, helped end the year for his teammates, even after fouling out with 5:30 left in the game.

Ra'anana was down only 58-55 with 4:30 remaining when Dan Bingenheimer converted a slam dunk on a beautiful pass from Doron Shefa and was fouled by Paul Thompson.

Steinhauser erupted from the bench and received a technical foul when he threw water on referee Todd Warnick.

Bingenheimer made the free throw and then Adi Gordon hit the two technical free throws for a 63-55 advantage, and Hapoel never looked back.

The end was a bitter pill for Ra'anana to swallow, especially since they appeared serious about sending the series to a deciding game when earlier in the half the team took advantage of numerous Jerusalem turnovers and raced back from a 35-27 deficit to take a 42-41 with 14 minutes left.

For Jerusalem, Gordon had 18 points, Billy Thompson 15, Papi Turgeman 12, Motti Daniel 10, and Bingenheimer 9.

For Ra'anana, Mark Brisker had 18 points, Paul Thompson 14 and Steinhauser 12.

Jerusalem will face Maccabi Tel Aviv, which swept Hapoel Eilat in its semifinal series, in Game 1 of the best-of-three championships series next Thursday.

League soccer on hold as national squads ready for Cyprus

By ONI LEWIS

There is no action in the two major soccer divisions this weekend as the national and under-21 teams prepare to take on Cyprus on Wednesday.

The national team players are almost all here for the training camp which began on Wednesday. Coach Shlomo Scharf will finalize his squad tomorrow night from an initial party of 25. He will probably leave only 21 for the remainder of training for the crucial World Cup qualifier which Israel must win to stay in the hunt for a place in the finals in France next year.

Gadi Brumer is still out of the squad due to his ankle complaint, although a checkup by Belgian expert Prof. Marc Martens has revealed no serious damage and Brumer should be back in action within a fortnight.

Reserve goalkeeper Golan Mahal was released by Scharf on Wednesday after he felt dizzy during training in the heat. Itzik Korfman was called into the squad in his place to fill the No. 2 'keeper's position behind Rafi Cohen.

Assi Domb and Yossi Abuksis have also been released due to fitness problems.

Haim Revivo and Eyal Benkowitz arrived for training and Ronnie Rosenthal is due today.

Coach Scharf is still upset with some of the players' dissenting behavior towards their club coaches, specifically with Itzik Zohar who lashed out at Eli Cohen, coach of Bnei Jerusalem, and Tal Benin, the national team captain, who criticized Hapoel Haifa coach Ivan Katalinich in a newspaper article three weeks ago.

While he said he was not in a position to take action, Scharf warned that the next player who gets into trouble with his club will be axed from the national team.

In an unusual move, both the under-21 game and the national team's matches will be held on Wednesday at the National Stadium in a doubleheader. The under-21 team kicks off at 15:30 and the national side begins its match at 18:00.

Morris felled by Donald after career-best 233

LONDON (Reuter) - Glamorgan opener Hugh Morris was carried off on a stretcher after being hit on the head by a ball from South African fast bowler Allan Donald yesterday.

Morris had reached a career-best, unbeaten 233 in the county championship match against Warwickshire at Cardiff when he ducked into a delivery from Donald that was only marginally short.

The former Glamorgan captain was struck on the back of the head, fell to the ground instantly but managed to remove his helmet and did not appear to lose consciousness.

Glamorgan physio Dean Conway and his Warwickshire counterpart Stuart Nottingham immediately raced onto the field, and Morris was taken to hospital for a precautionary X-ray.

Morris's retirement came after he had batted 558 minutes, faced 445 balls and hit 35 fours and a six to beat his previous best of 202 not out against Yorkshire on the same ground last season.

His innings put Glamorgan in charge on the second day of the four-day match. They declared at 551 for three - a first innings lead of exactly 400 - and at the close

Warwickshire were 15 for one.

New Durham captain David Boon, the former Australian test opener, stands between Lancashire and a comfortable victory at Old Trafford.

Boon scored an unbeaten 85 in a total of 201 for six that left last season's bottom county still seeking a further 156 to avoid the follow-on.

Glen Chapple (66) and Peter Martin (78 not out) had earlier extended their defiant last-wicket partnership to 146 as Lancashire reached a dominant 506.

Defending champions Leicestershire were lifted by a last-

wicket stand of 101 between wicketkeeper Paul Nixon and England under-19 international James Ormond against Gloucestershire at Leicester.

Nixon, who finished unbeaten on 77, and Ormond (35) joined forces at 206 for nine and took the total to 307 and a first innings lead of 62.

Somerset's Richard Fesha scored his 27th first-class century despite a badly sprained ankle to make Surrey toil at The Oval.

Harden compiled an unbeaten 136 and shared a ninth-wicket stand of 109 with off-spinner Steve Herzberg (56) before Somerset were finally dismissed for 463, including a first-class world record 86 extras.

The agony continued for highly-rated Surrey as they slumped from 94 without loss to 172 for seven, Herzberg taking two for 23 and paceman Graham Rose three for 24.

All-rounder Rounie Irani (95 not out) shared a fourth-wicket stand of 128 with Australian Stuart Law (78) as Essex reached 373 for seven and a lead of 458 against Hampshire at Chelmsford.

Seamer Ashley Cowan had earlier claimed a career-best five for 49 as the visitors were dismissed for 161.

Foreign stars to dominate FA Cup final

LONDON (AP) - The most prestigious cup final in English soccer will be a cosmopolitan affair this year, graced by stars from Italy, Brazil, Denmark and France.

When Middlesbrough and Chelsea meet in the FA Cup final at Wembley on May 17, half of the starters on the field could be foreigners.

The headline yesterday in the independent newspaper summed it up: "Foreign Legion go back to Wembley." Middlesbrough, led by Brazilian stars Juninho and Emerson, and Italy's Fabrizio Ravanelli, reached their first FA Cup final in its 121-year history by

beating second division Chesterfield 3-0 in a semifinal replay on Tuesday night.

All three goals were scored by foreign players: Denmark's Mikkel Beck, Ravanelli and Emerson. The fleet-footed Juninho set up two of the goals and was by far the game's dominant player.

Chelsea, coached by former Dutch star Ruud Gullit and spearheaded by Italian striker Gianfranco Zola, is seeking its first major trophy since 1971.

Zola limped off the pitch in Chelsea's 1-0 league win Tuesday at Wimbledon with a hamstring injury. He is doubtful for next

week's Italian World Cup qualifier against Poland but hopes to be fit for the FA Cup final.

"I am desperate to play for Italy but I will not be taking any chances because the FA Cup final is less than four weeks away and I definitely want to be ready for it," Zola said.

The Middlesbrough-Chelsea matchup reflects the way the once insular English game has become one of the most international in Europe, as lucrative television deals have allowed clubs to bid for foreign talent.

The largely industrial northeast English city of Middlesbrough - far

from the glamor of London - managed in the last year to lure Juninho, Emerson, Beck, Ravanelli and another Italian, Gianluca Festa.

Middlesbrough was disappointing in a 1-0 loss last week to Leicester in the replayed final of the less prestigious League Cup. It is lodged in 19th place in the 20-team Premier League and faces the possibility of being relegated to the first division next season, which would likely prompt most of the foreigners to leave.

Manager Bryan Robson has been outspoken in defending his foreign legion.

"People keep criticizing them, but they've all made a big impact this season," Robson said. "If you look through the season, between them they've been man of the match nearly every game, so they haven't got to prove anything." A victory at Wembley would give Middlesbrough their first league or cup title and land the club in Europe next season in the Cup Winners' Cup.

Chelsea seem sure to start Zola, Italian midfielder Roberto Di Matteo, French defender Fran LeBoeuf and Dan Petrescu of Romania. Frode Grodas of Norway or Russian Dmitri Kharike could be in goal.

Sharp-eyed fan saves Dobby from punishment

LONDON (Reuter) - Dobby, the small, mischievous house-elf from the Harry Potter series, was spotted by a sharp-eyed fan at the FA Cup final. The fan, who was not named, spotted Dobby in the crowd and alerted the police. Dobby was then taken away from the stadium. The fan was praised for his quick thinking and for saving Dobby from punishment.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLISH SOCCER - Premier League result last night: Premier League Tottenham 1, Middlesbrough 0.

European Cup could end with week-long tournament

MANCHESTER (Reuter) - The semifinals and final of the European Cup could all be played in the same country in a one-week period at the end of the season, if an idea put forward by European champions Juventus is accepted by UEFA.

The idea, which has not yet been formally proposed or discussed by European soccer's governing body, has come from former Italian international Roberto Bettega, now a Juventus vice-president, but has been cautiously welcomed by both clubs and member associations.

It involves scrapping the traditional two-legged semifinals and playing a one-off semifinal with the final being held a few days afterwards.

All three matches would be staged in the same country, so, for example, one semifinal might be played on a Tuesday night in Milan, the second on the Wednesday night in Turin with the final on the Sunday in Rome.

UEFA spokesman Frits Ahlstrom told Reuters: "The idea was first mooted by Roberto Bettega at a

Juventus stay on course for another title; Ajax fear end of an era

LONDON (AP) - While Juventus seem to get stronger, Ajax are falling apart.

Almost a year after the Italian champions ended the Dutch club's reign as European champions, Juve crushed Ajax 4-1 on Wednesday to reach the Champions Cup final again. They now meet first-time finalists Borussia Dortmund in Munich May 24.

Juventus beat the once seemingly unbeatable Ajax home and away for a 6-2 aggregate semifinal victory that confirmed its status as the world's strongest club.

But Ajax, who also lag in fourth place in the Dutch first division, are clearly no longer a force.

"For now this is the end of an era," said Dutch player of the year Ronald de Boer.

"You never know how long it will take to come back," said his twin brother, Frank.

Ajax looked the team of the decade when it downed AC Milan two finals ago with a squad of young, mainly home-grown players.

But several moved on, ironically to

Italian clubs, and, with coach Louis van Gaal on his way to Spanish club Barcelona, it looks as if Ajax are crumbling.

Het Parool, Amsterdam's evening paper, asked: "What went wrong?" "Louis van Gaal's Ajax has fallen," the paper said. "For a while he gave us the impression that he could permanently elevate the club above normal levels. That illusion is now shattered but it was a beautiful illusion which left us drunk on success for a few years." Juventus, meanwhile, appear in the middle of an upswing.

Even without several injured starters, including forwards Alessandro del Piero and Michele Padovano, and suspended Yugoslav midfielder Vladimir Jugovic, Juve, also the World Cup champion, looked too strong for Ajax.

"Juventus looks like the strongest team in the world at present," said Italy's largest sports daily *Gazzetta dello Sport*.

"And no doubt it's the favored team against Borussia, a team filled with former Juventus players (Paulo Sousa, Stefan Reuter, Andreas Moeller, Juergen

Kohler). The Turin team looks ready to begin a winning cycle after AC Milan."

Dortmund, the Bundesliga champions for the last two seasons but falling out of contention this term, won the Cup Winners Cup back in 1966 but this is its first shot at Europe's premier event after downing Manchester United 1-0 for a 2-0 aggregate triumph.

The team is packed with experienced German internationals such as Moeller, Reuter, Kohler, Matthias Sammer and Karlheinz Riedle, plus Swiss star Stephane Chapuisat and Sousa from Portugal.

The two finalists met in the group stage of last season's competition and each won at the other's stadium. While Juve went on to win the title, Dortmund was ousted in the quarterfinal by Ajax.

"Juventus is at the moment the world's best team," said Dortmund coach Ottmar Hitzfeld. "But we still have something to pay back to Turin. One always has a chance in a game." Lars Ricken, who scored in Wednesday's 1-0 win at Old Trafford, said the semifinal triumph rekindled the season for his team.

"If we had lost here the season could have quickly gone sour," he said. "Now we have the chance to take the European Cup in Munich and I also see possibilities for the championship." There was even optimism at defeated Manchester United, which is convinced it will come back stronger next season.

Manchester United have been intoxicated by triumphs for five seasons at home but have barely had a taste in Europe since winning the Cup Winners Cup six seasons ago.

Manager Alex Ferguson, though dismayed by the six chances his team squandered against Dortmund on Wednesday, is confident the experience will make sure the club will do better next season.

"We have to improve our side a little bit just enough to give us that final push next year," said Ferguson, whose team is on course for its fourth English league title in five years.

"I look at (Dortmund's) team and my team and I'm not afraid for next season. I have a clear picture of the team for the future and we are definitely good enough to go one better next year."

Sports Editors: Joseph Horman and Gail Lewis

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Also attending the meeting were Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs Yigal Bibi, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, and Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair

Yitzhaki.

the threats to the peace process and noted that, although the Church sought to divorce itself from politics, political considerations are inseparably enmeshed in the fabric of daily life.



Dancers pose yesterday at the Saharane festival held by Jews of Russian-Kashub origin at Ein Horned near Jerusalem. (Grim Heudert)

By HANM SHAPIRO

However, Amoyal said, the *mangal*, or barbecue grill, is an Israeli development which does not reflect the traditional spirit

The Mimouna will be officially opened on Monday night.


Meanwhile, for those for whom the Mimouna has become inalterably associated with grilling meat, there will be modest entertainment at Sacher Park on Tuesday. Amoyal said.

By DAVID RUDGE

The Meteorological Service reported that temperatures would gradually return to more

Traffic jams were again reported at main road junctions in the North, where hotels and guest houses are fully booked for the

the weekend, with a chance of light rain in northern and central areas on Sunday, clearing by Monday.



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WEATHER

City	Temperature
Hafia	15-25
Tiberias	14-20
Alona	14-20
Samarita	19-29
Tel Aviv	16-24
Jerusalem	17-26
Beer Sheva	17-27
Dead Sea	21-30
Eilat	18-32

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear, drop in temperatures, rise in humidity.
Shabbat: Additional drop in temperatures and rise in humidity.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	C	F	W	F	
Amsterdam	05	41	58	74	91	privacy
Berlin	04	41	55	72	89	privacy
Buenos Aires	16	64	20	37	54	privacy
Calgary	09	59	73	89	104	privacy
Chicago	04	39	53	73	95	privacy
Copenhagen	09	59	41	57	45	privacy
Edinburgh	04	39	58	74	91	privacy
Geneva	04	39	58	74	91	privacy
Helsinki	22	70	20	37	54	privacy
Hong Kong	18	70	22	37	54	privacy
London	04	39	58	74	91	privacy
Lyons	18	70	22	37	54	privacy
Maastricht	09	59	41	57	45	privacy
Los Angeles	18	64	20	37	54	privacy
Madrid	04	39	58	74	91	privacy
Moscow	09	59	45	61	78	privacy
New York	04	39	58	74	91	privacy
Paris	09	59	41	57	45	privacy
Philadelphia	04	39	58	74	91	privacy
Rome	04	39	58	74	91	privacy
Stockholm	04	39	58	74	91	privacy
Sydney	17	63	27	43	60	privacy
Tokyo	18	70	22	37	54	privacy
Winnipeg	05	41	58	74	91	privacy
Zurich	05	41	58	74	91	privacy

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